9 771125 540009 00046

The Walt Disney Company Italia S.p.A. - Mensile n. 46 - OTTOBRE 2000
Spedizione in abb. post. 70% Fil. Verona - www.disney.it - *Italy only

LIRE 4300
EURO 2,22*

PKNA #46

Walt Disney MAGAZINES

PKNA

NEW PADERNIK ADVENTURES

IN THE SHADOW

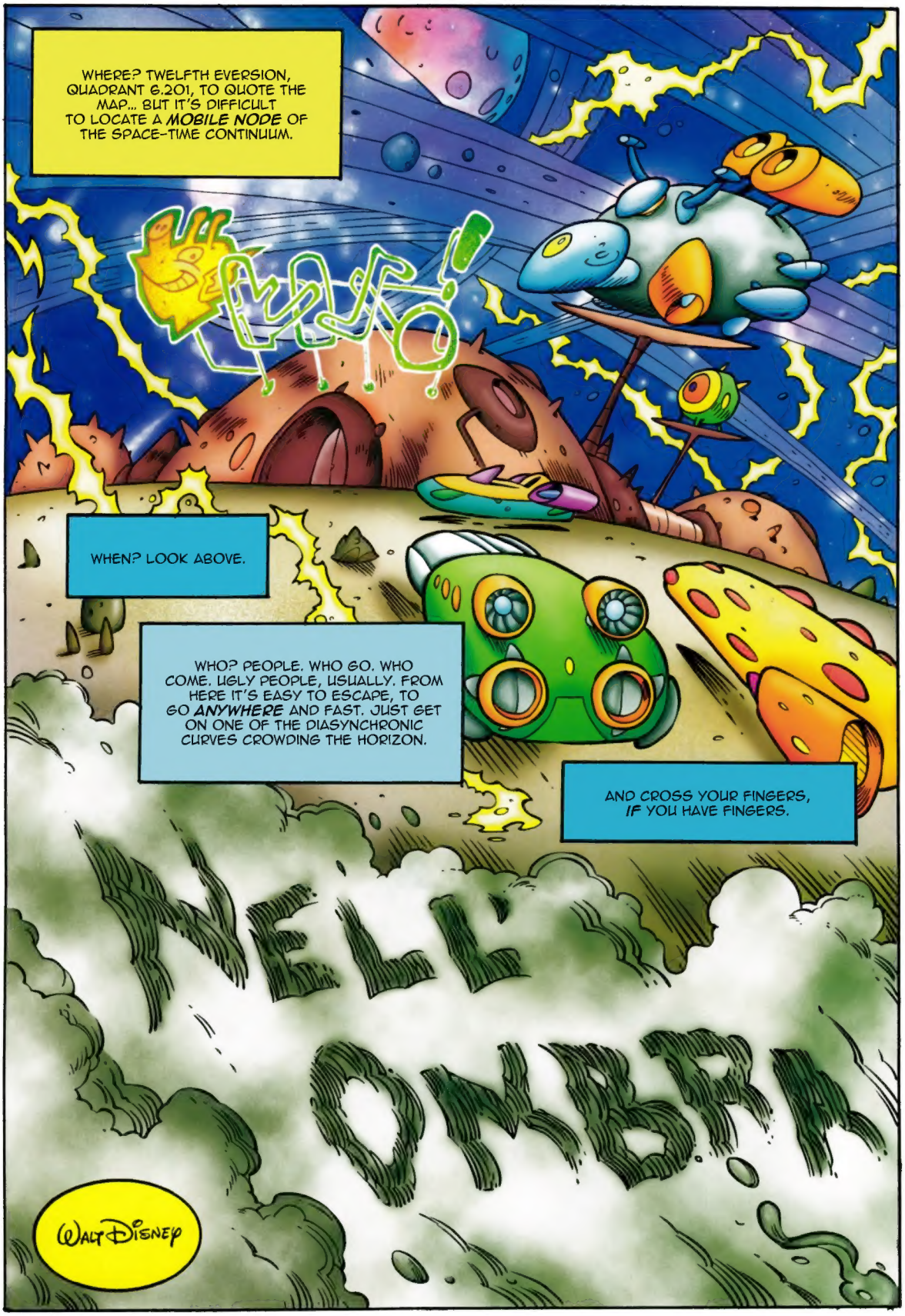
The Walt Disney Company Italia S.p.A. - Mensile n. 46 - OTTOBRE 2000
Spedizione in abb. post. 70% Fil. Verona - www.disney.it - *Italy only

LIRE 4300
EURO 2,22*

PKNA #46

Walt Disney MAGAZINES

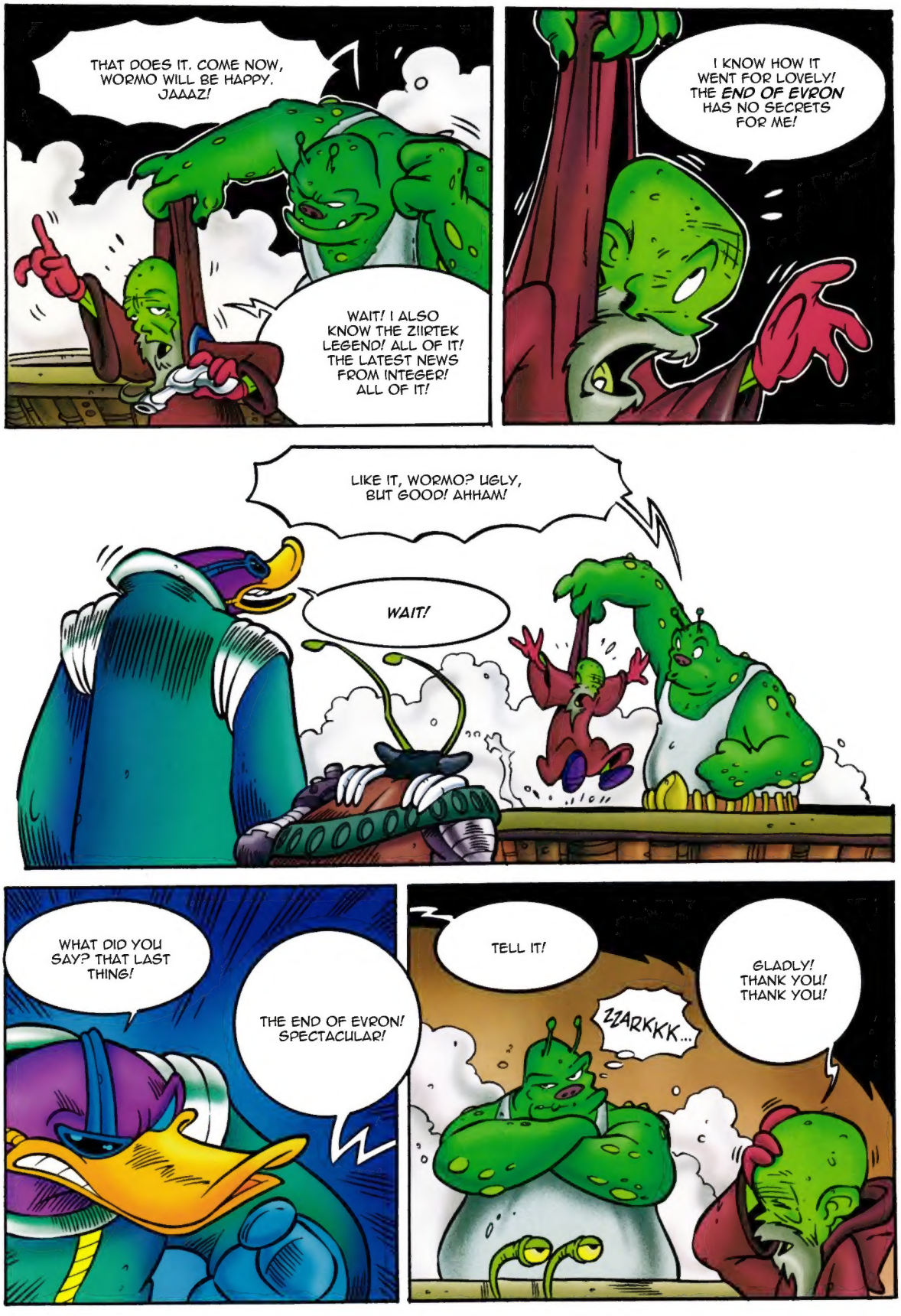
IN THE SHADOW

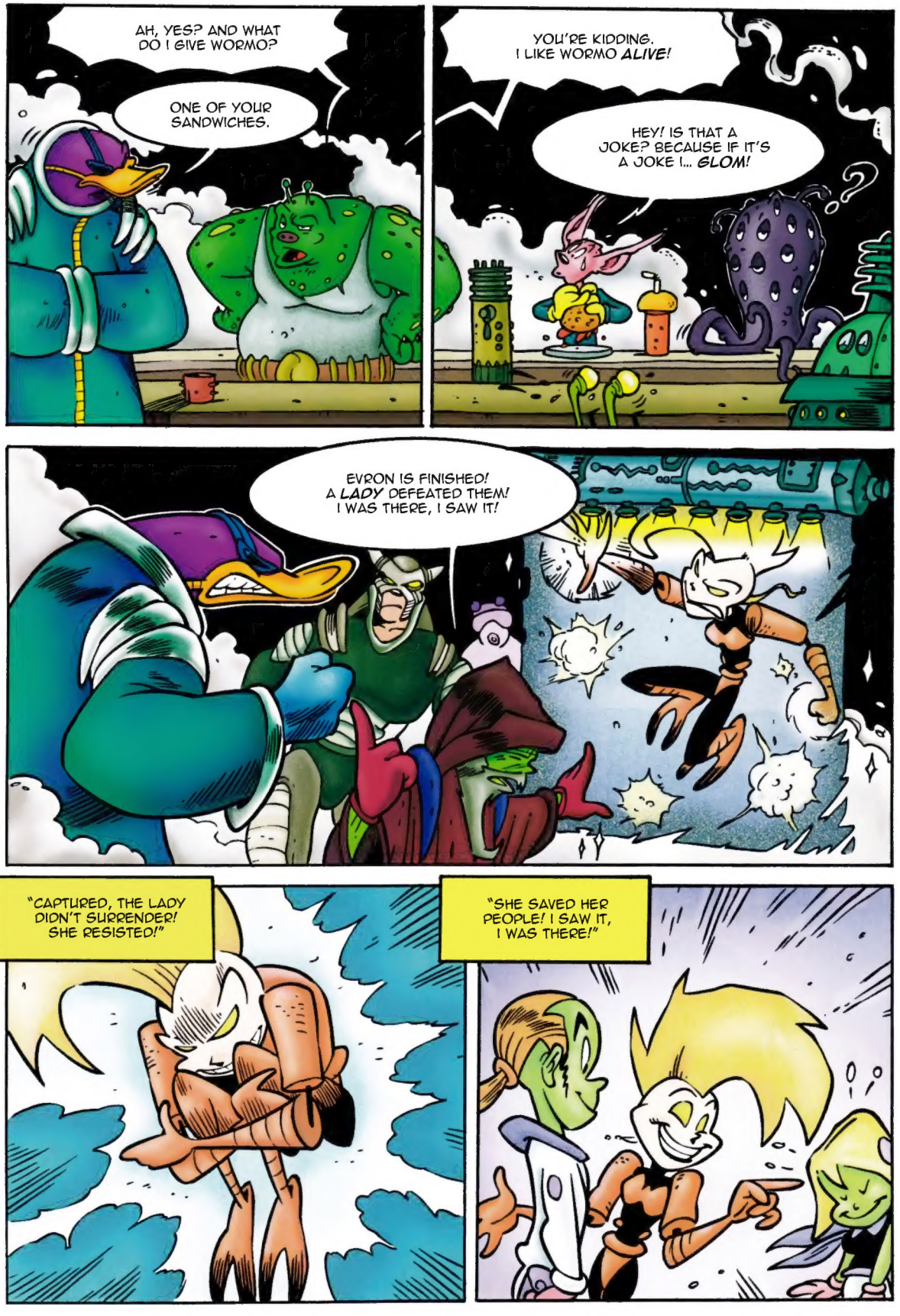

WHERE? TWELFTH EVERSION, QUADRANT 6.201, TO QUOTE THE MAP... BUT IT'S DIFFICULT TO LOCATE A MOBILE NODE OF THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM.
WHEN? LOOK ABOVE.
WHO? PEOPLE. WHO GO. WHO COME. UGLY PEOPLE, USUALLY. FROM HERE IT'S EASY TO ESCAPE, TO GO ANYWHERE AND FAST. JUST GET ON ONE OF THE DIASYNCHRONIC CURVES CROWDING THE HORIZON.
AND CROSS YOUR FINGERS, IF YOU HAVE FINGERS.
WALT DISNEY

I-PKNA-46

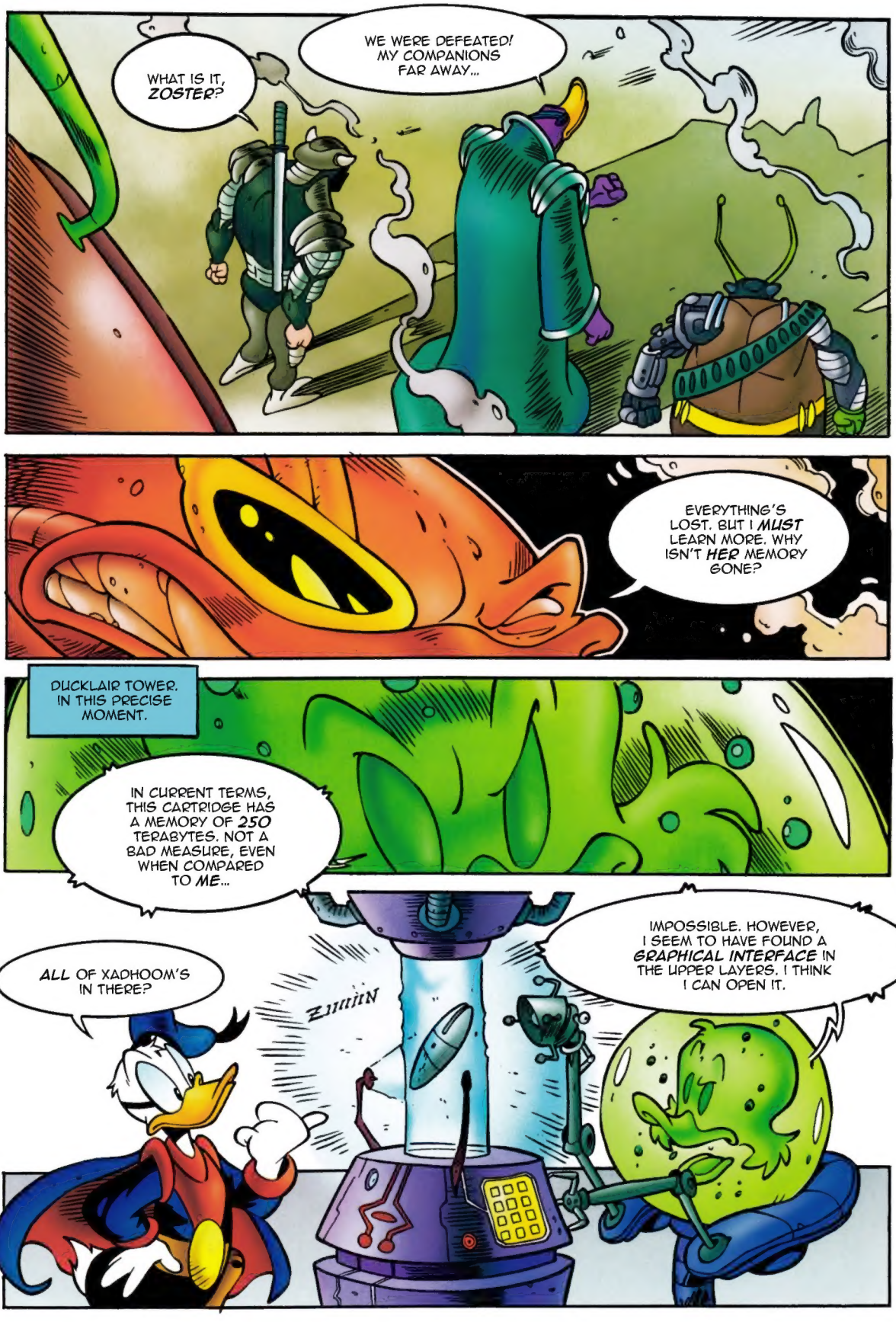
"WHY" IS MISSING. BUT FOR THIS, JUST DON'T RUSH...
LISTEN, PEOPLE! I KNOW STORIES FROM ALL QUADRANTS! THOSE KNOWN, AND MANY THAT AREN'T KNOWN!
I'VE SEEN THINGS, OFF THE COAST OF THE PIERS OF SELINHUNTER, THAT DESERVE YOUR ATTENTION! OPEN YOUR EARS, IF YOU HAVE EARS!
HEY! IS THAT A JOKE? BECAUSE IF IT'S A JOKE !...
I KNOW THE OLD AHIRO SONGS! I CAN SING THEM! I KNOW THE GORG POEMS! I CAN RECITE THEM!
CAN YOU INSTEAD COME OVER HERE? XAEDUS, OR WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

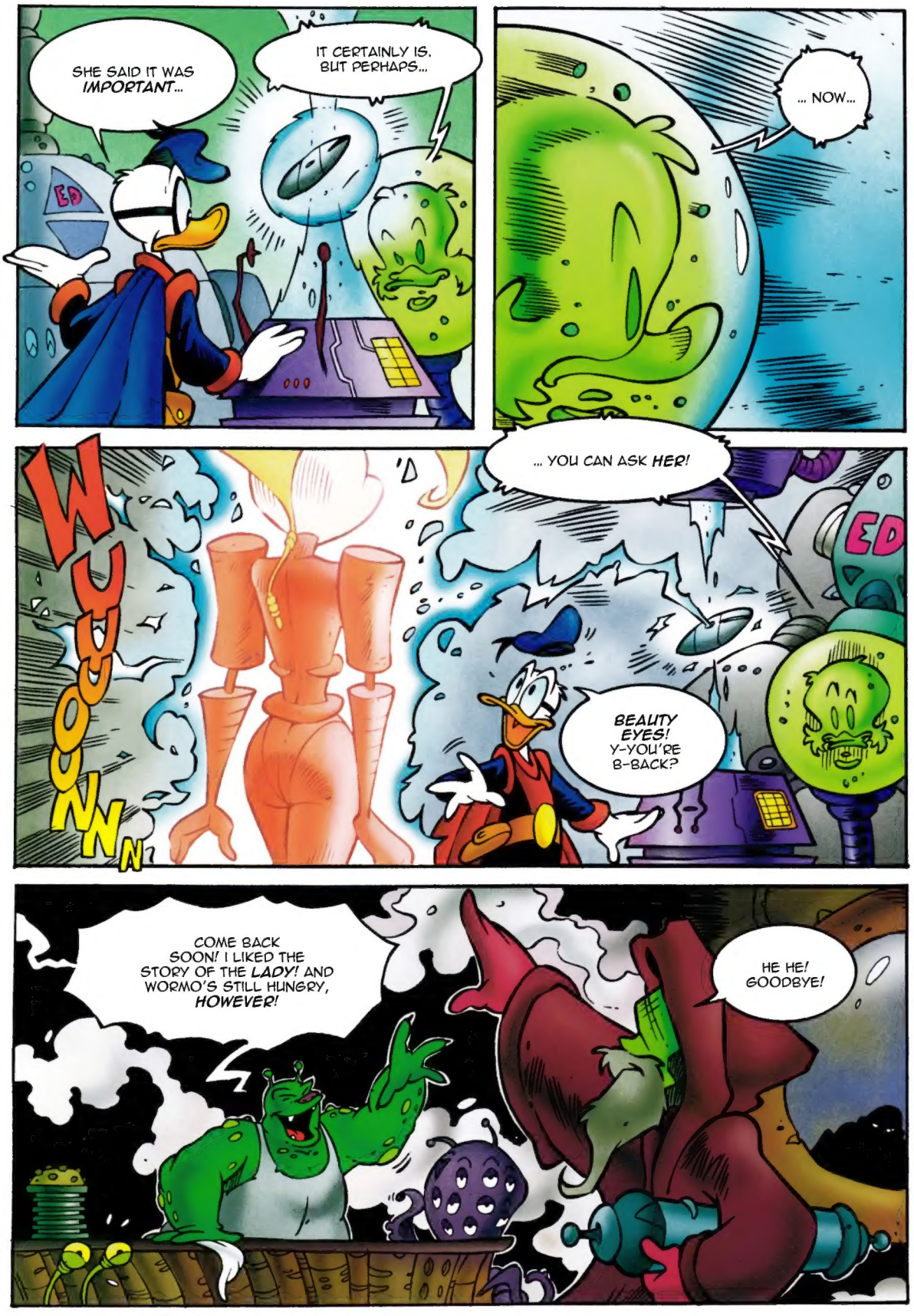
XAEDUS, YES.
GOOD, XAEDUS. DO YOU REMEMBER? I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO EAT, IF YOU ENTERTAIN THE COSTUMERS, ZARKKK! IF YOU DON'T ENTERTAIN THE COSTUMERS...
Y-YES!
... I'LL GIVE YOU TO WORMO BEHIND THE COUNTER. UNDERSTOOD?
EHEM... DO YOU WANT TO HEAR THE STORY OF THE ABDUCTED FUNGI OF LEA? I KNOW IT!
WORMO HAS NO EARS, BUT MANY TEETH. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, WORMO?
GRAURRR
I KNOW ALL OF THE RAIN OF ADOOLOS PUTREFYING ON IOL! I ALSO HAVE THE OLFACTORY DOCUMENTATION OF PIOGGIA!
URRRR
SMELL IT?
VRRRR
NO. COLD. I'M. SORRY.


THAT DOES IT. COME NOW, WORMO WILL BE HAPPY. JAAAZ!
WAIT! I ALSO KNOW THE ZIIRTEK LEGEND! ALL OF IT! THE LATEST NEWS FROM INTEGER! ALL OF IT!
I KNOW HOW IT WENT FOR LOVELY! THE END OF EVRON HAS NO SECRETS FOR ME!
LIKE IT, WORMO? UGLY, BUT GOOD! AHHAM!
WAIT!
WHAT DID YOU SAY? THAT LAST THING!
THE END OF EVRON! SPECTACULAR!
TELL IT!
ZZARKKK...
GLADLY! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

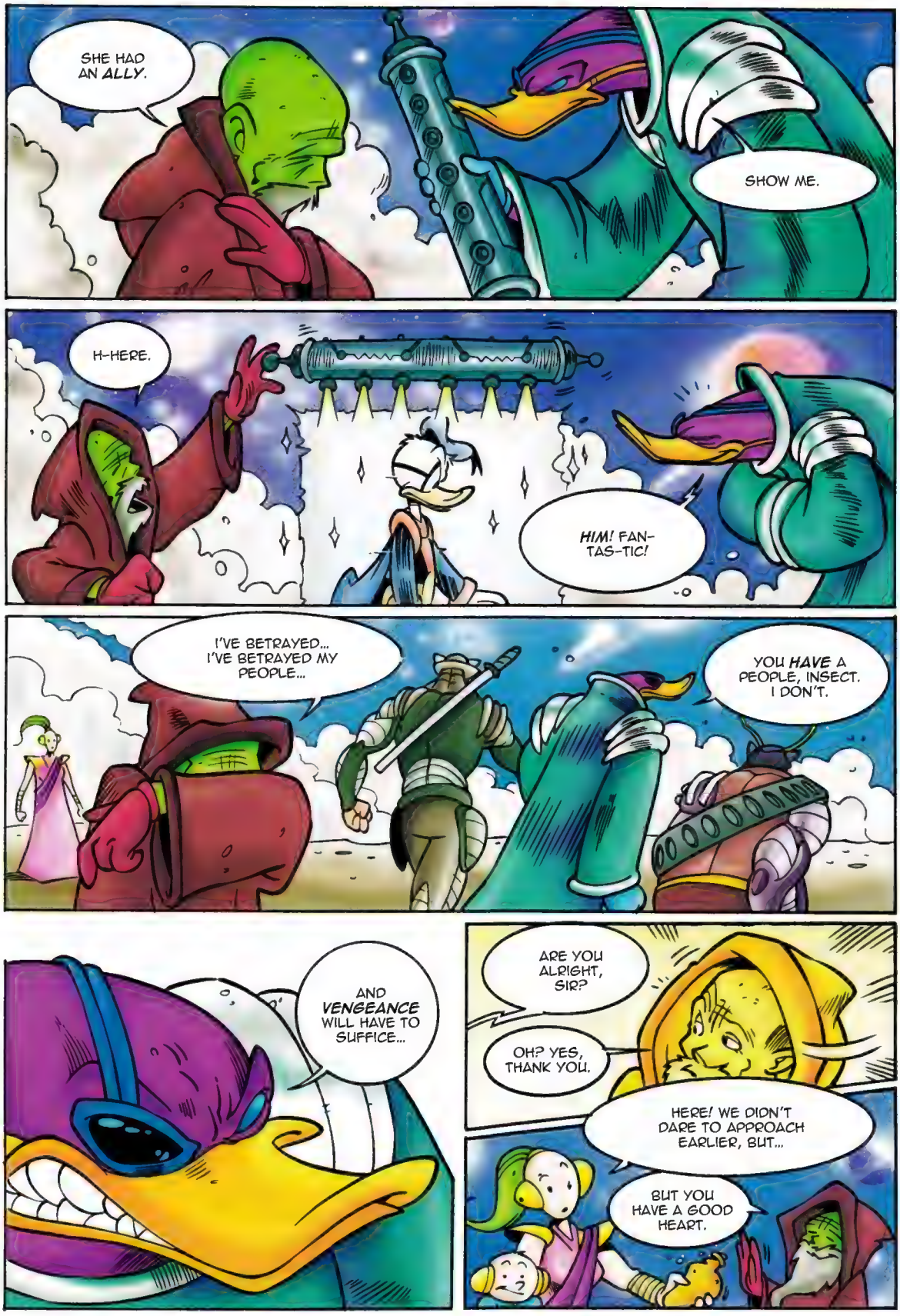

AH, YES? AND WHAT DO I GIVE WORMO?
ONE OF YOUR SANDWICHES.
YOU'RE KIDDING. I LIKE WORMO ALIVE!
HEY! IS THAT A JOKE? BECAUSE IF IT'S A JOKE I... GLOM!
EVRON IS FINISHED! A LADY DEFEATED THEM! I WAS THERE, I SAW IT!
"CAPTURED, THE LADY DIDN'T SURRENDER! SHE RESISTED!"
"SHE SAVED HER PEOPLE! I SAW IT, I WAS THERE!"

"I WAS THERE! SHE EMBRACED ME! THE LADY SAVED US!"
"AND TO GIVE US A NEW SUN, SHE LAUNCHED INTO SPACE!"
"A STAR, A STAR, A STAR SHE BECAME!"
AND SO EVRON WAS FINISHED, AND JUSTICE HAD TRIUMPHED!
FINISHED...
A STAR SHE BECAME, BUT HER MEMORY DIDN'T DIE! HER MEMORY IS ALIVE! ALIVE!
WE'RE LEAVING. RIGHT NOW!

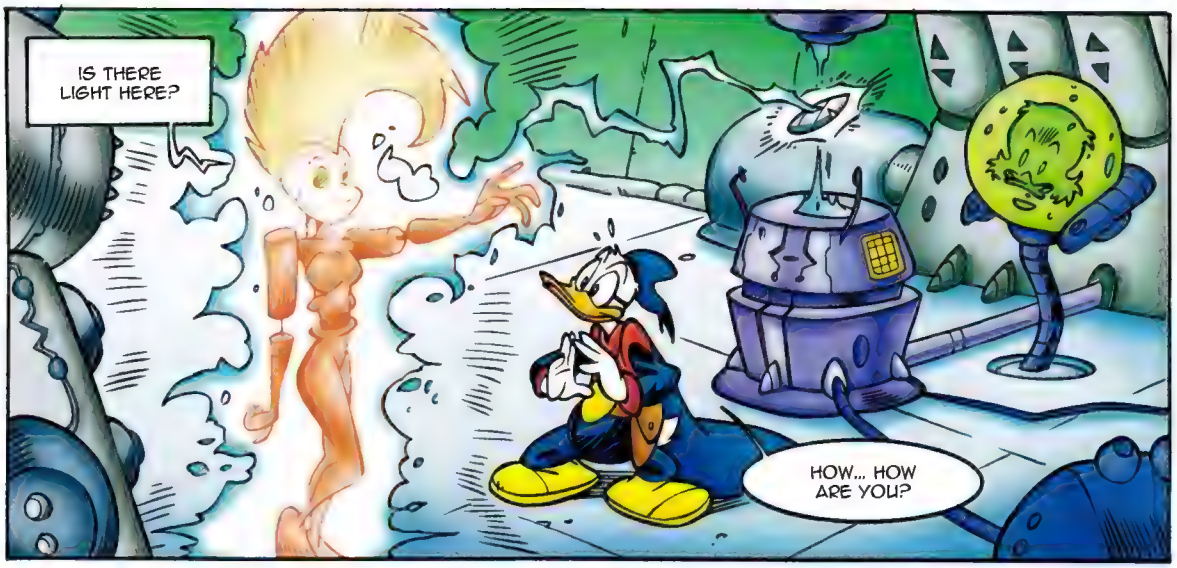

WHAT IS IT, ZOSTER?
WE WERE DEFEATED! MY COMPANIONS FAR AWAY...
EVERYTHING'S LOST. BUT I MUST LEARN MORE. WHY ISN'T HER MEMORY GONE?
DUCKLAIR TOWER. IN THIS PRECISE MOMENT.
IN CURRENT TERMS, THIS CARTRIDGE HAS A MEMORY OF 250 TERABYTES. NOT A BAD MEASURE, EVEN WHEN COMPARED TO ME...
ALL OF XADHOOM'S IN THERE?
IMPOSSIBLE. HOWEVER, I SEEM TO HAVE FOUND A GRAPHICAL INTERFACE IN THE UPPER LAYERS. I THINK I CAN OPEN IT.
ZmmN

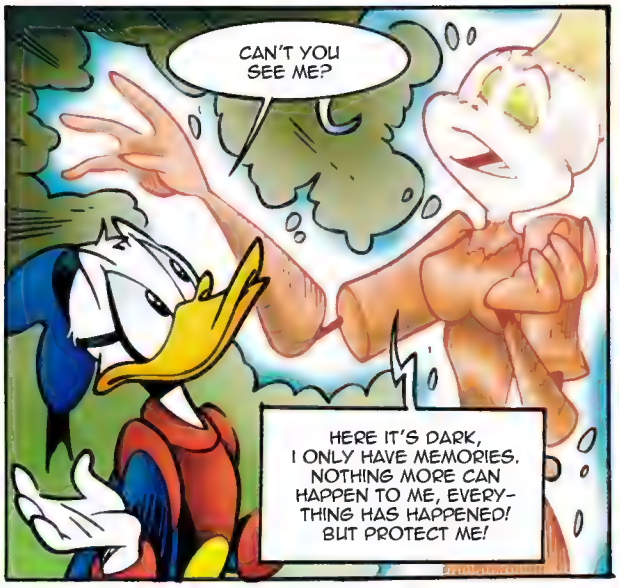

SHE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT...
IT CERTAINLY IS. BUT PERHAPS...
... NOW...
... YOU CAN ASK HER!
WUUOOONNN
BEAUTY EYES! Y-YOU'RE B-BACK?
COME BACK SOON! I LIKED THE STORY OF THE LADY! AND WORMO'S STILL HUNGRY, HOWEVER!
HE HE! GOODBYE!

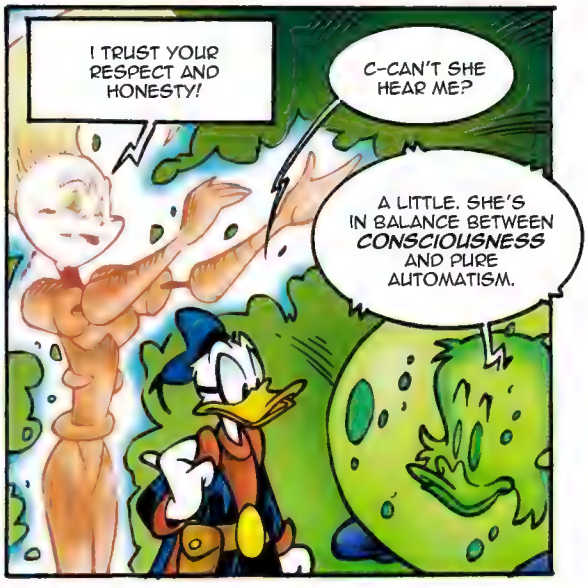
YOU!
ARGH!
EXPLAIN NOW! WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE MEMORY OF THE LADY ISN'T GONE?
I DON'T... OOOF!
TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW BEFORE YOU RUN OUT OF BREATH!
A SUPPORT. HER MEMORY... PANT...
LET HIM GO.
HER MEMORY WAS RECORDED. ON A SUPPORT. BUT I DON'T KNOW... WHERE...
BUT MAYBE YOU KNOW WHO.
Y-YES!

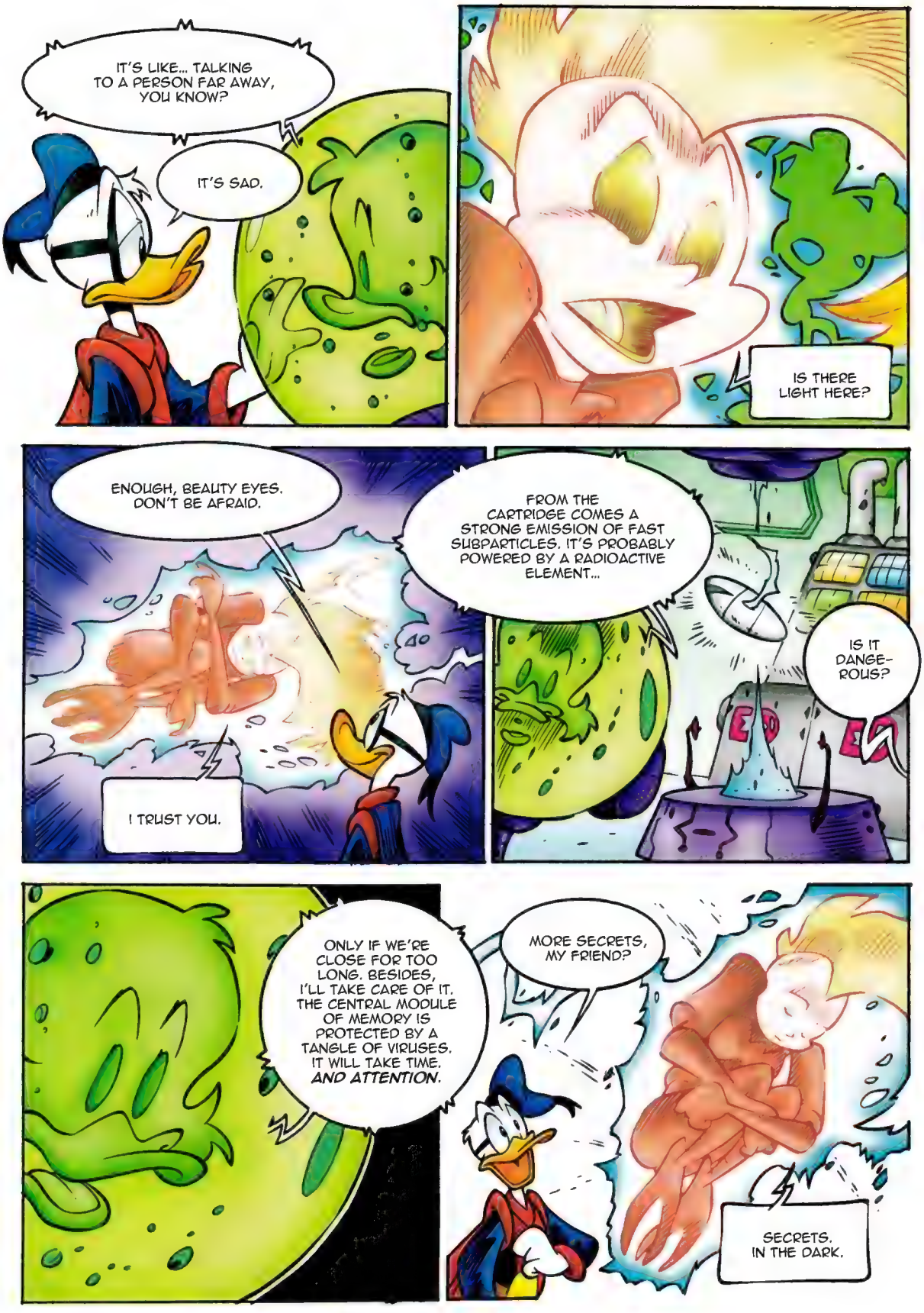

SHE HAD AN ALLY.
SHOW ME.
H-HERE.
HIM! FAN-TAS-TIC!
I'VE BETRAYED... I'VE BETRAYED MY PEOPLE...
YOU HAVE A PEOPLE, INSECT. I DON'T.
AND VENGEANCE WILL HAVE TO SUFFICE...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, SIR?
OH? YES, THANK YOU.
HERE! WE DIDN'T DARE TO APPROACH EARLIER, BUT...
BUT YOU HAVE A GOOD HEART.

COME!
AND TO THANK YOU, I'LL TELL YOU A STORY. SINCE I'M A STORYTELLER, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE...


IS THERE LIGHT HERE?
HOW... HOW ARE YOU?

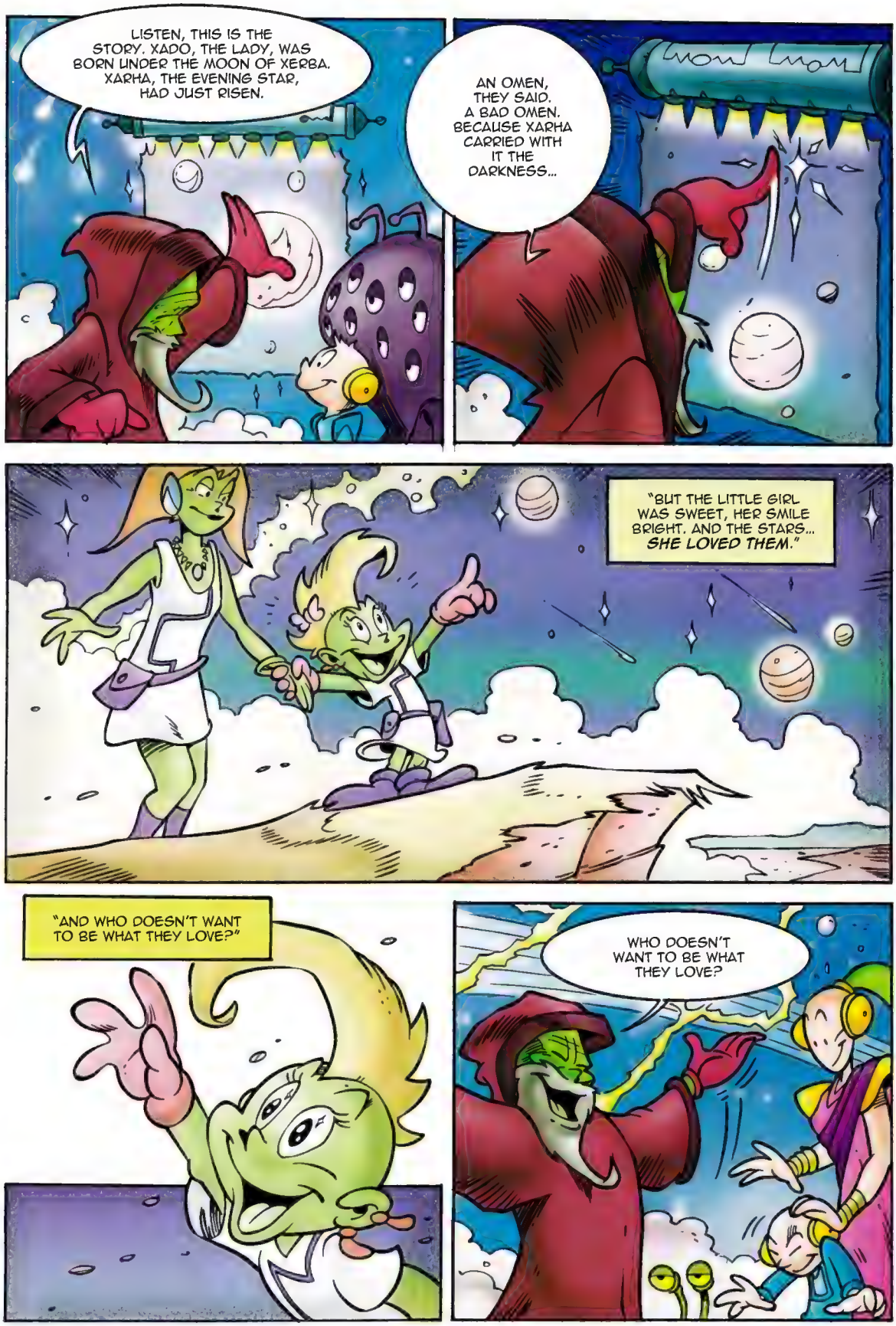

CAN'T YOU SEE ME?
HERE IT'S DARK, I ONLY HAVE MEMORIES. NOTHING MORE CAN HAPPEN TO ME, EVERYTHING HAS HAPPENED! BUT PROTECT ME!


I TRUST YOUR RESPECT AND HONESTY!
C-CAN'T SHE HEAR ME?
A LITTLE. SHE'S IN BALANCE BETWEEN *CONSCIOUSNESS* AND PURE AUTOMATISM.

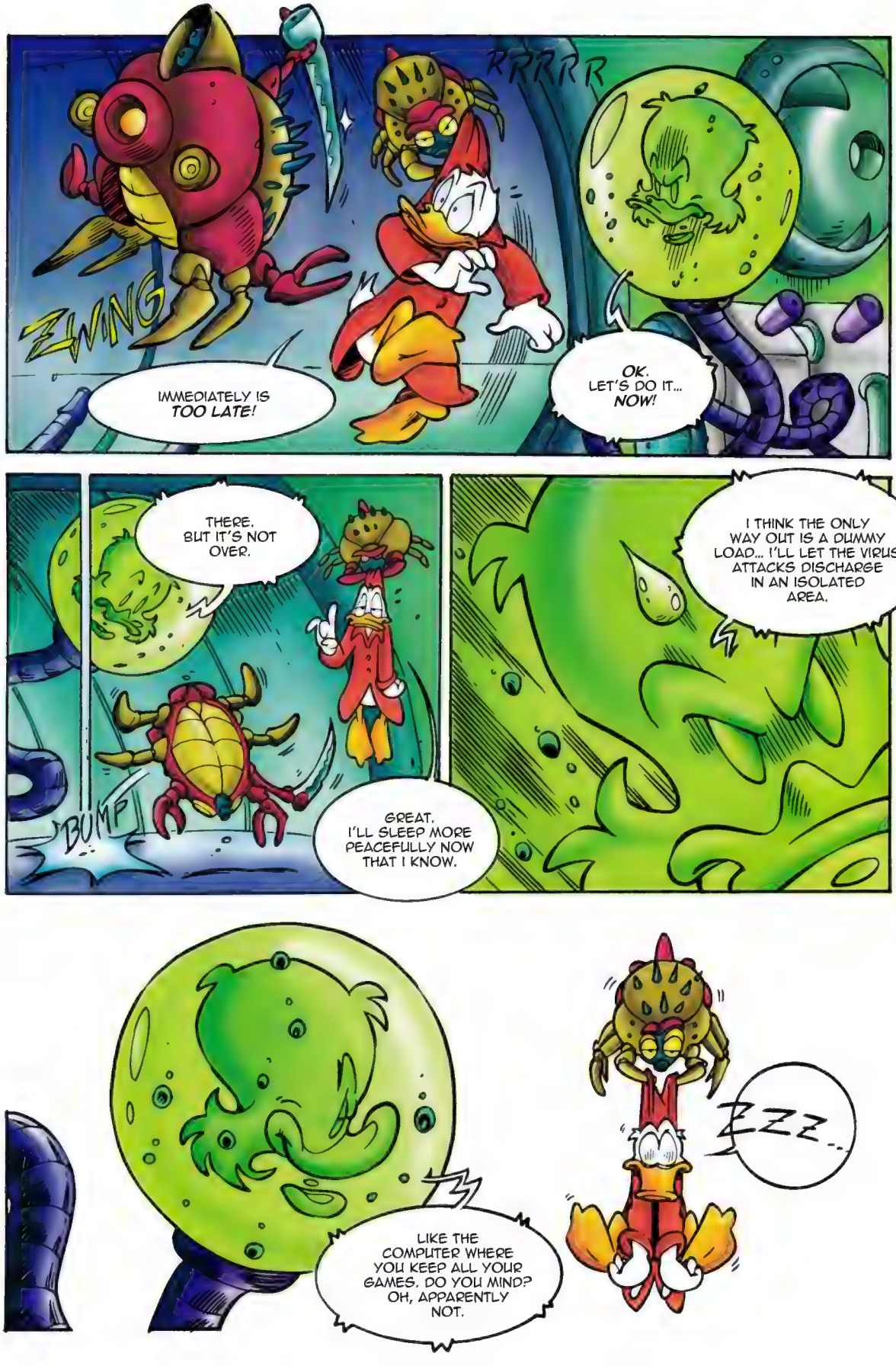

IT'S LIKE... TALKING TO A PERSON FAR AWAY, YOU KNOW?
IT'S SAD.
IS THERE LIGHT HERE?
ENOUGH, BEAUTY EYES. DON'T BE AFRAID.
I TRUST YOU.
FROM THE CARTRIDGE COMES A STRONG EMISSION OF FAST SUBPARTICLES. IT'S PROBABLY POWERED BY A RADIOACTIVE ELEMENT...
IS IT DANGE-ROUS?
ONLY IF WE'RE CLOSE FOR TOO LONG. BESIDES, I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT. THE CENTRAL MODULE OF MEMORY IS PROTECTED BY A TANGLE OF VIRUSES. IT WILL TAKE TIME. AND ATTENTION.
MORE SECRETS, MY FRIEND?
SECRETS. IN THE DARK.

NEVER BEEN IN A DIASYNCHRONIC CURVE DURING THE DECELERATION? CONTINUE LIKE THAT, IF YOU LIKE YOUR MOLECULES IN PLACE.
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
UNLESS YOU POSSESS A CONTAINMENT CELL. THEN YOU COULD TRAVEL ALMOST SAFELY. PROVIDED THAT IT'S...
AAAH!
TLAC
... DEVOID OF CRACKS.
RIGHT AGAIN!
BETTER IF YOU WRITE WITH YOUR LEFT, RAUHL.
LAUGH LATER... NOW GIVE ME A HAND. THERE MUST HAVE REMAINED SOME PLASTO-CONNECTIONS SOMEWHERE.
WE'LL CHANGE THE CELLS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
IF WE SUCCEED IN OUR TASK, YOU CAN AFFORD A CONTAINMENT BUBBLE FOR THE WHOLE SHIP.

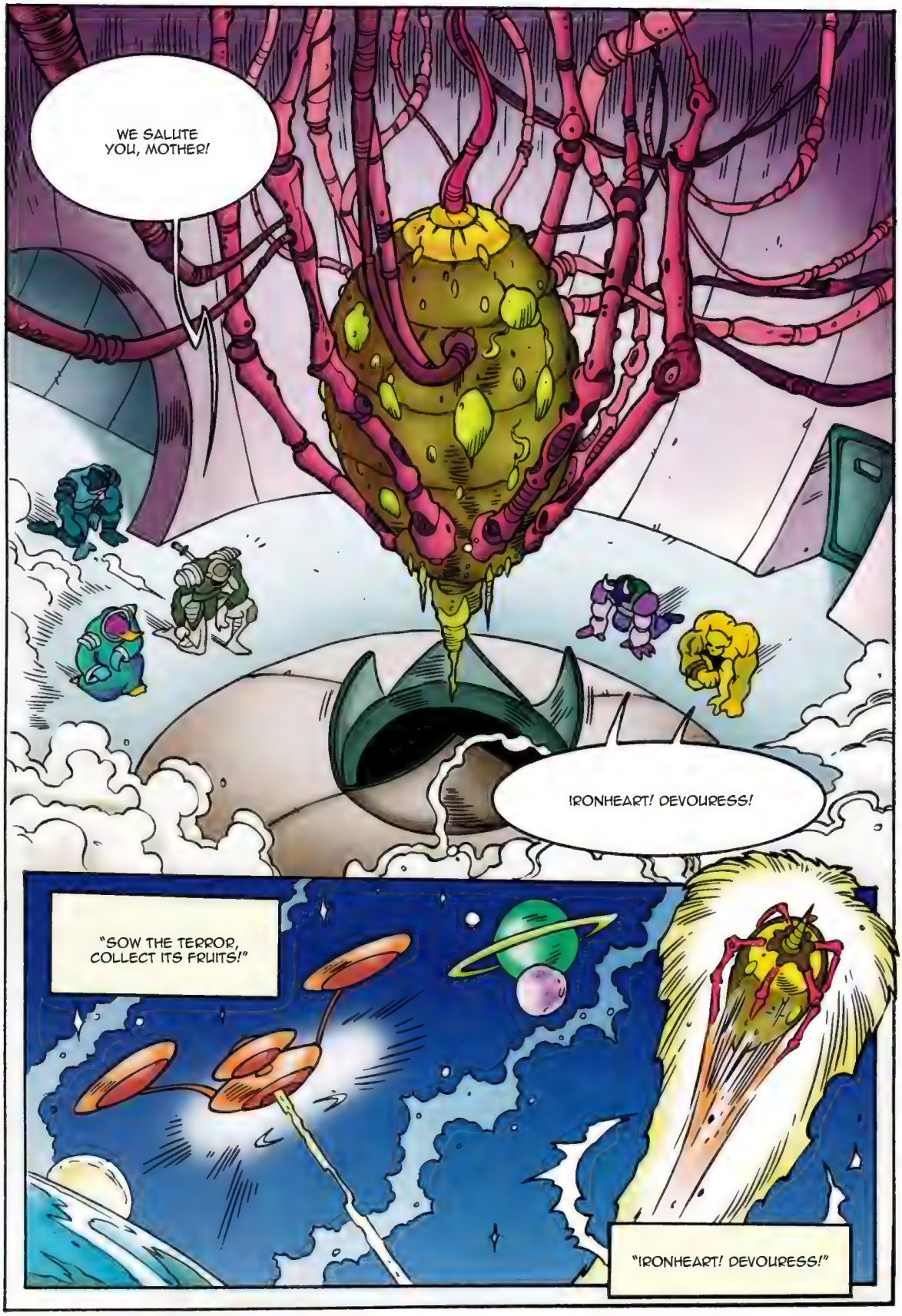
EMPTY WORDS. EVER SINCE YOU ASKED US TO JOIN YOU, YOU HAVEN'T DONE WHAT YOU PROMISED. WE'RE TIRED...
YOU'RE *MERCENARIES*, *RAWR!* I'VE PAID YOU SO FAR, RIGHT?
A *ROHIRR* IS NOT MADE FOR CRUMBS. A ROHIRR HAS HUNGER FOR NEW LAND!
YOU'LL HAVE EVEN MORE. BUT IT'S TIME TO USE THE *UNIT* YOU'VE TALKED ABOUT!
NO! THE LAST *HAGA* IS OURS! IT WILL TAKE A *WORLD* FOR US WHEN THE TIME COMES!
THIS IS THE TIME. THAT'S THE WORLD... I KNOW WHO, AND I KNOW WHERE!
"A BLUE SPHERE? I SEE SEAS AND LITTLE LAND, ZOSTER."
"DON'T WORRY. FROM THERE WE'LL BE MOVING TO *THE REST*."

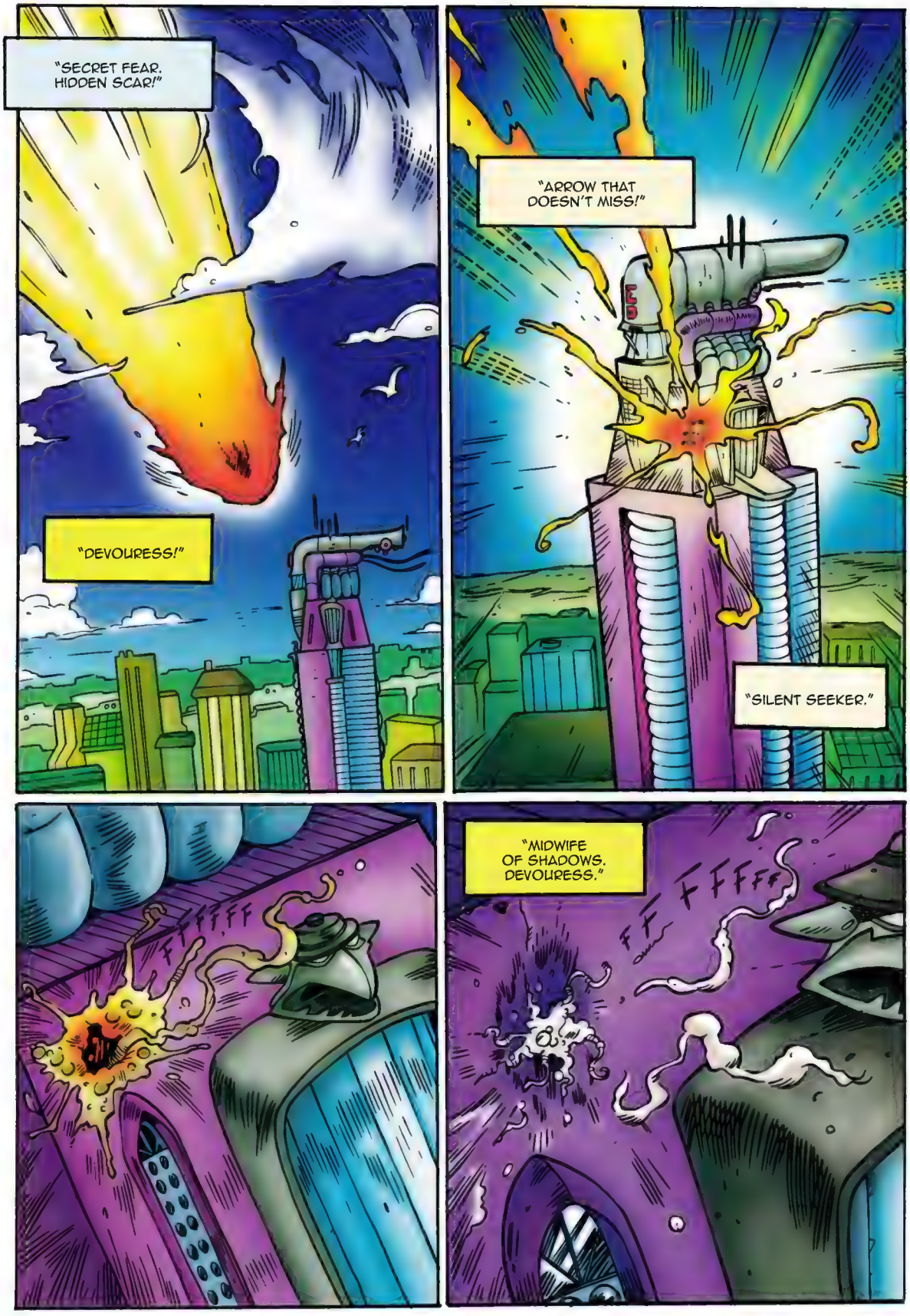

LISTEN, THIS IS THE STORY. XADO, THE LADY, WAS BORN UNDER THE MOON OF XERBA. XARHA, THE EVENING STAR, HAD JUST RISEN.
AN OMEN, THEY SAID. A BAD OMEN. BECAUSE XARHA CARRIED WITH IT THE DARKNESS...
"BUT THE LITTLE GIRL WAS SWEET, HER SMILE BRIGHT. AND THE STARS... SHE LOVED THEM."
"AND WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BE WHAT THEY LOVE?"
WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BE WHAT THEY LOVE?

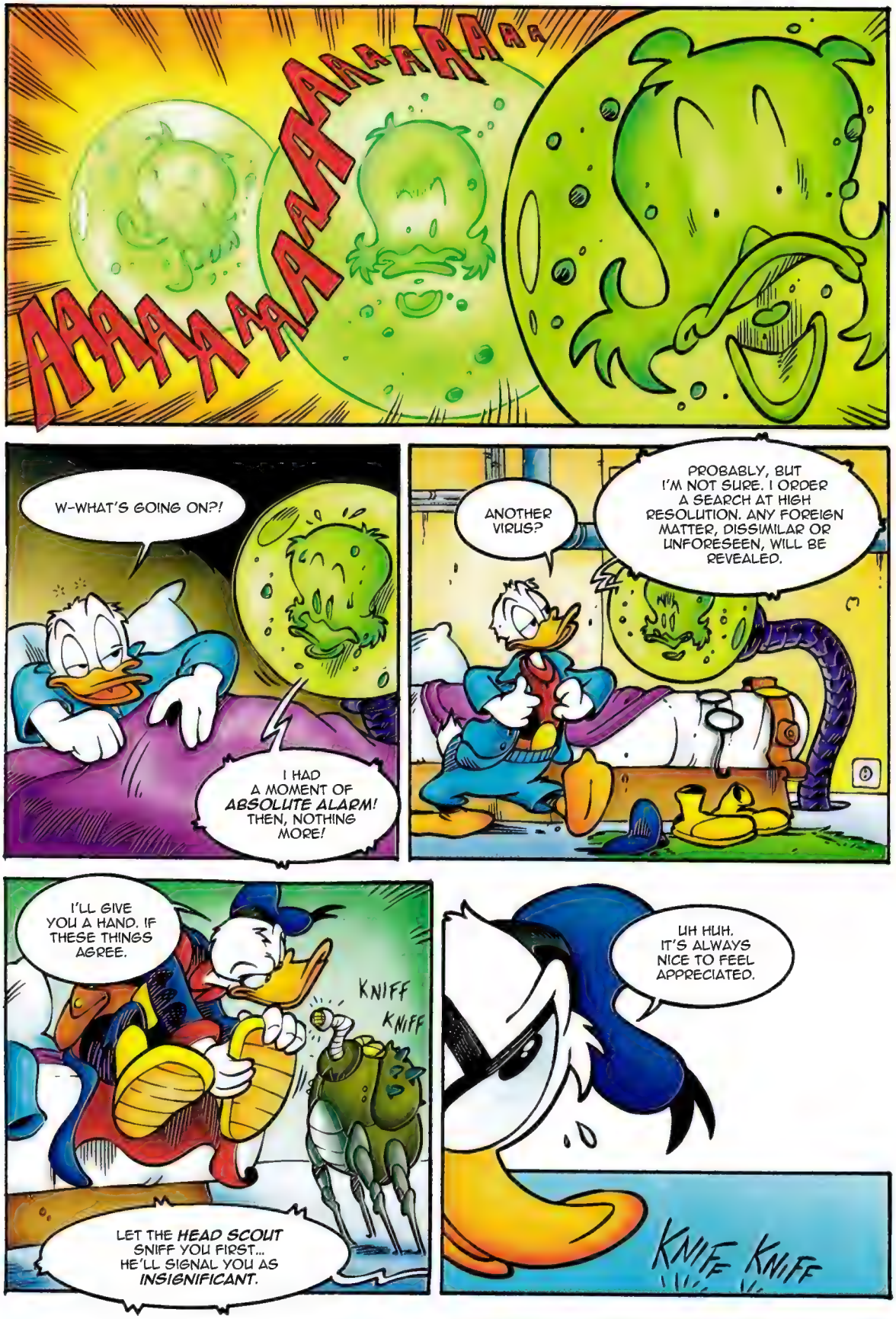
CAN'T YOU HELP ME? WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO GET TO THE DEEP LAYERS OF DATA?
SECRETS. IN THE DARK.
MAYBE IF... NO!
SKRANG
HUH?!
HEEEY! WHAT ARE THE ANTI-INTRUSION DRONES DOING IN MY ROOM AT THREE IN THE NIGHT?
A MIMETIC VIRUS FROM THE CARTRIDGE. I'LL FIX IT IMMEDIATELY.

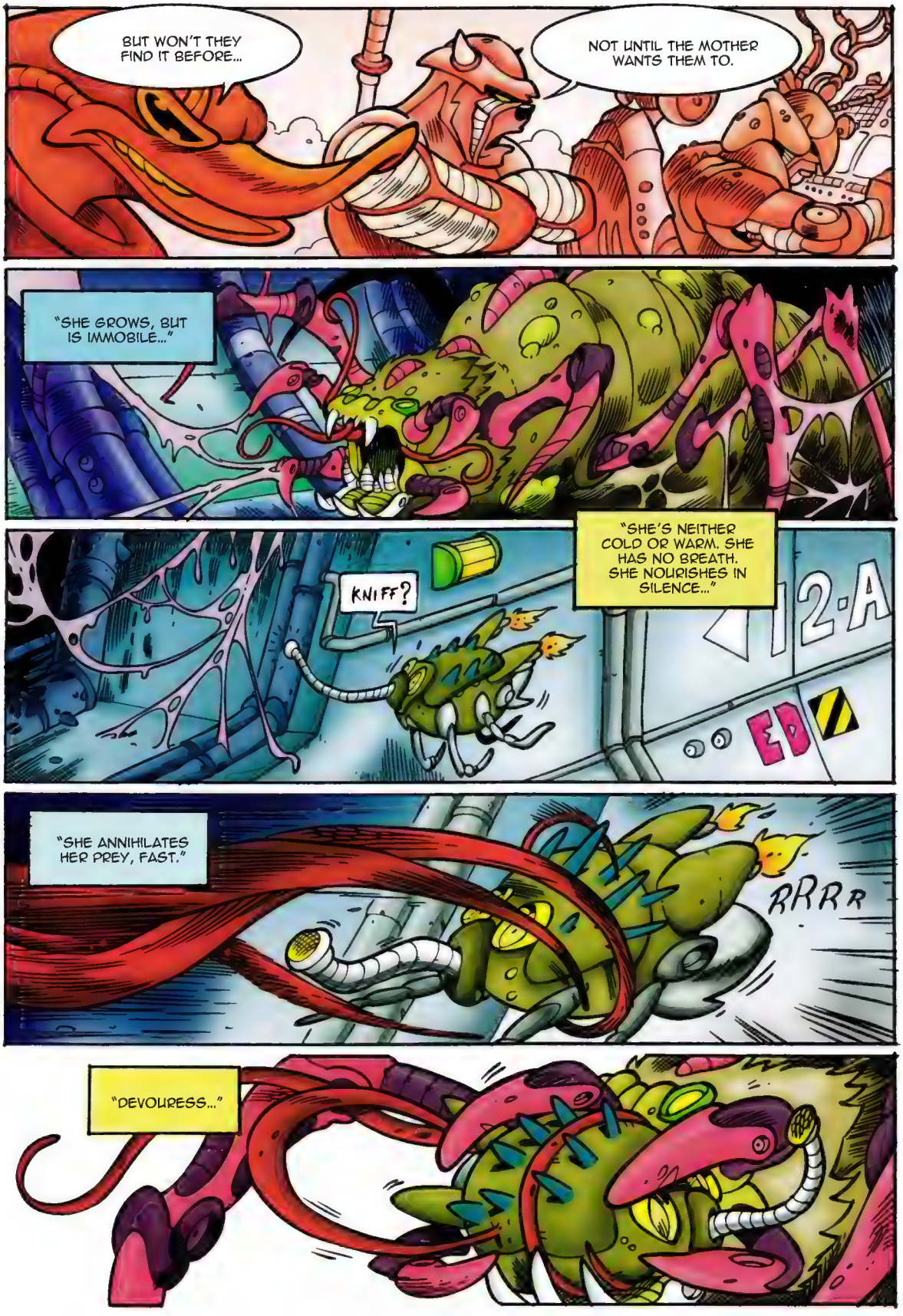

RRRRR
ZWING
IMMEDIATELY IS TOO LATE!
OK. LET'S DO IT... NOW!
THERE. BUT IT'S NOT OVER.
BUMP
GREAT. I'LL SLEEP MORE PEACEFULLY NOW THAT I KNOW.
I THINK THE ONLY WAY OUT IS A DUMMY LOAD... I'LL LET THE VIRUS ATTACKS DISCHARGE IN AN ISOLATED AREA.
LIKE THE COMPUTER WHERE YOU KEEP ALL YOUR GAMES. DO YOU MIND? OH, APPARENTLY NOT.
ZZZ..

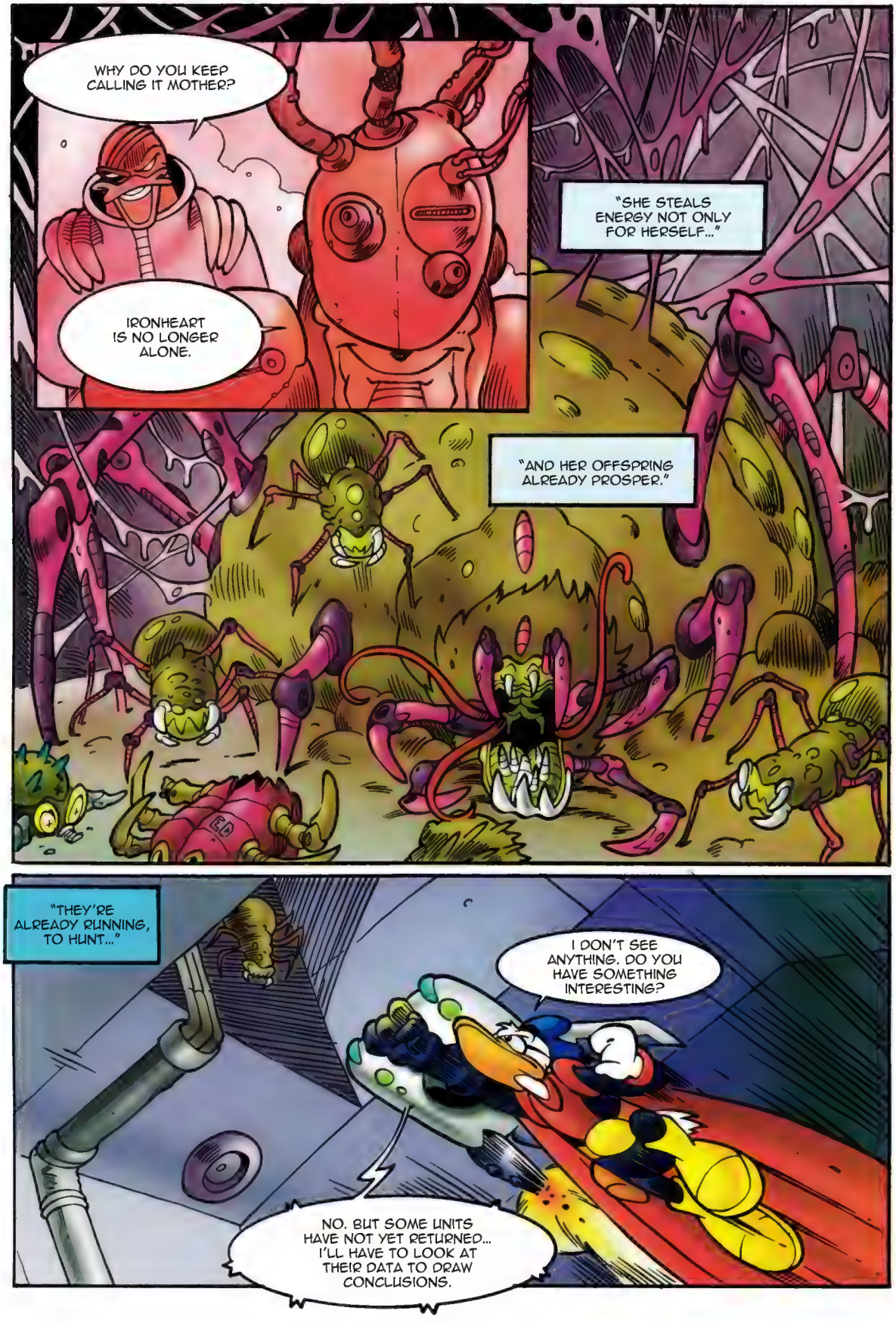
IT'S HERE?
YES. KNEEL.
I'M A SCIENTIST, RAWR. YOUR SUPER-STITIONS...
ON YOUR KNEES!
YOU'LL SEE *POWER* IN ITS PUREST FORM. YOU'LL SEE POWER THAT CAN GROW AND MULTIPLY.
THE LAST HAGA, THE PARASITE. BOW BEFORE HER FERTILE STOMACH.

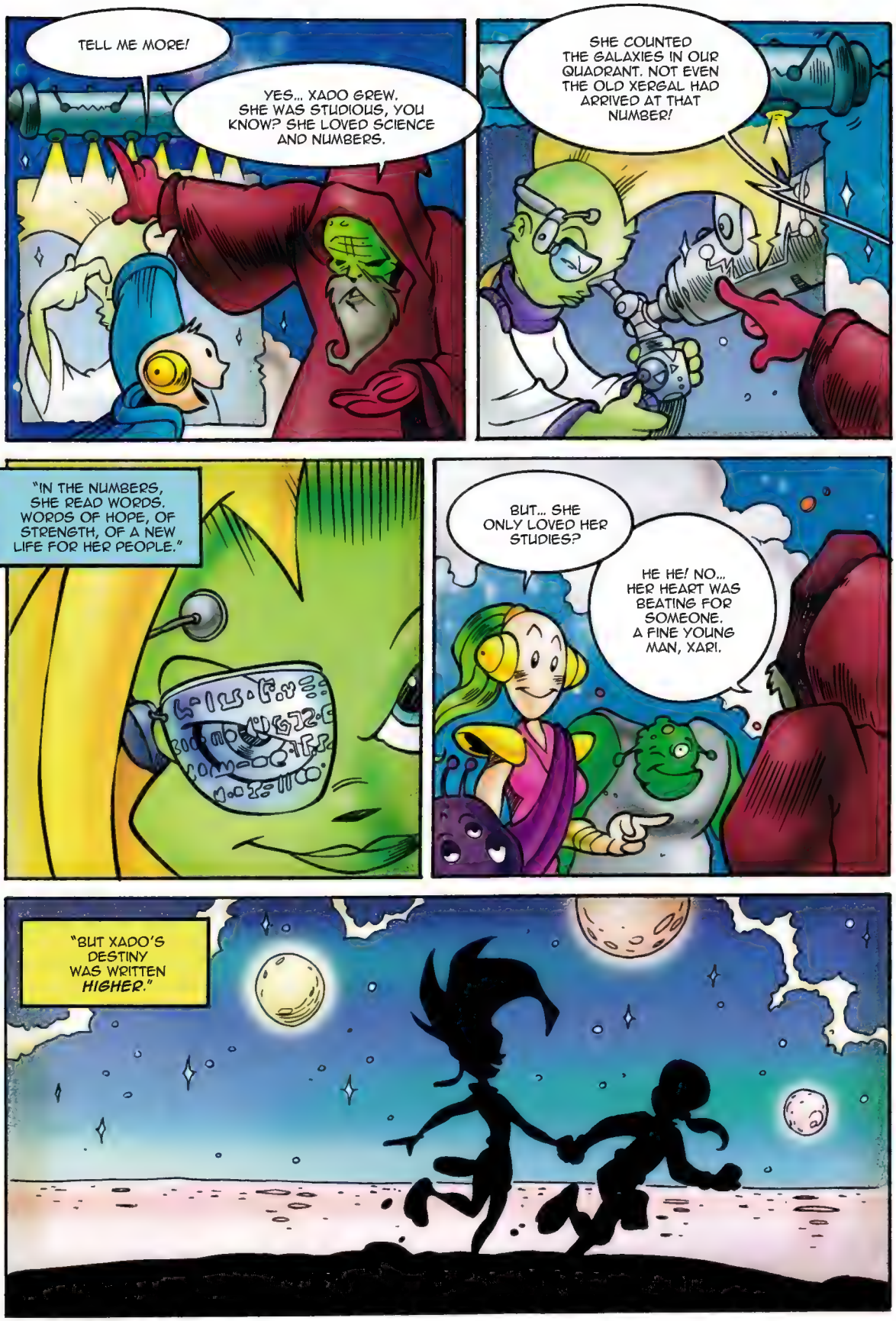

WE SALUTE YOU, MOTHER!
IRONHEART! DEVOURESS!
"SOW THE TERROR, COLLECT ITS FRUITS!"
"IRONHEART! DEVOURESS!"

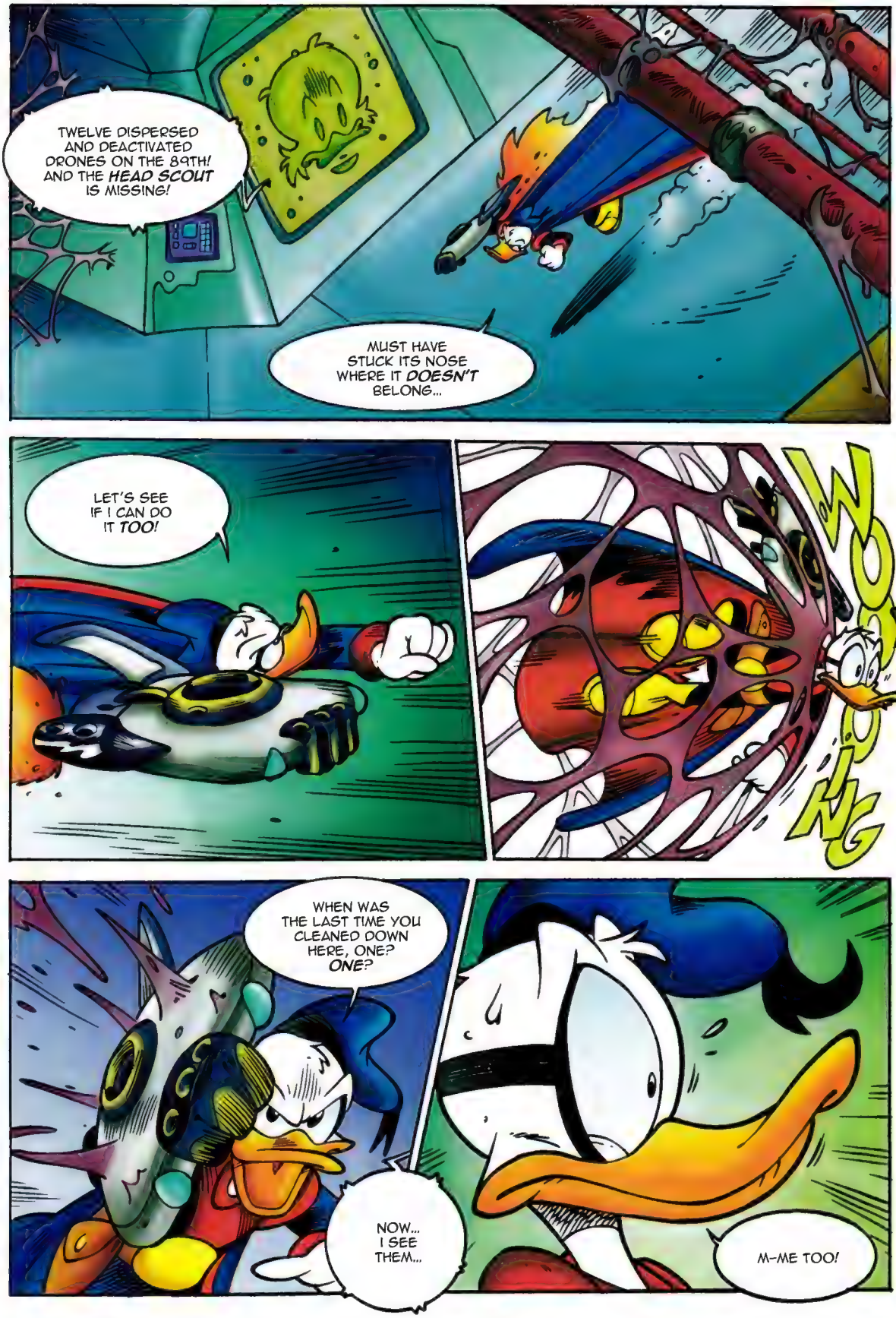

"SECRET FEAR. HIDDEN SCAR!"
"DEVOURESS!"
"ARROW THAT DOESN'T MISS!"
"SILENT SEEKER."
"MIDWIFE OF SHADOWS. DEVOURESS."

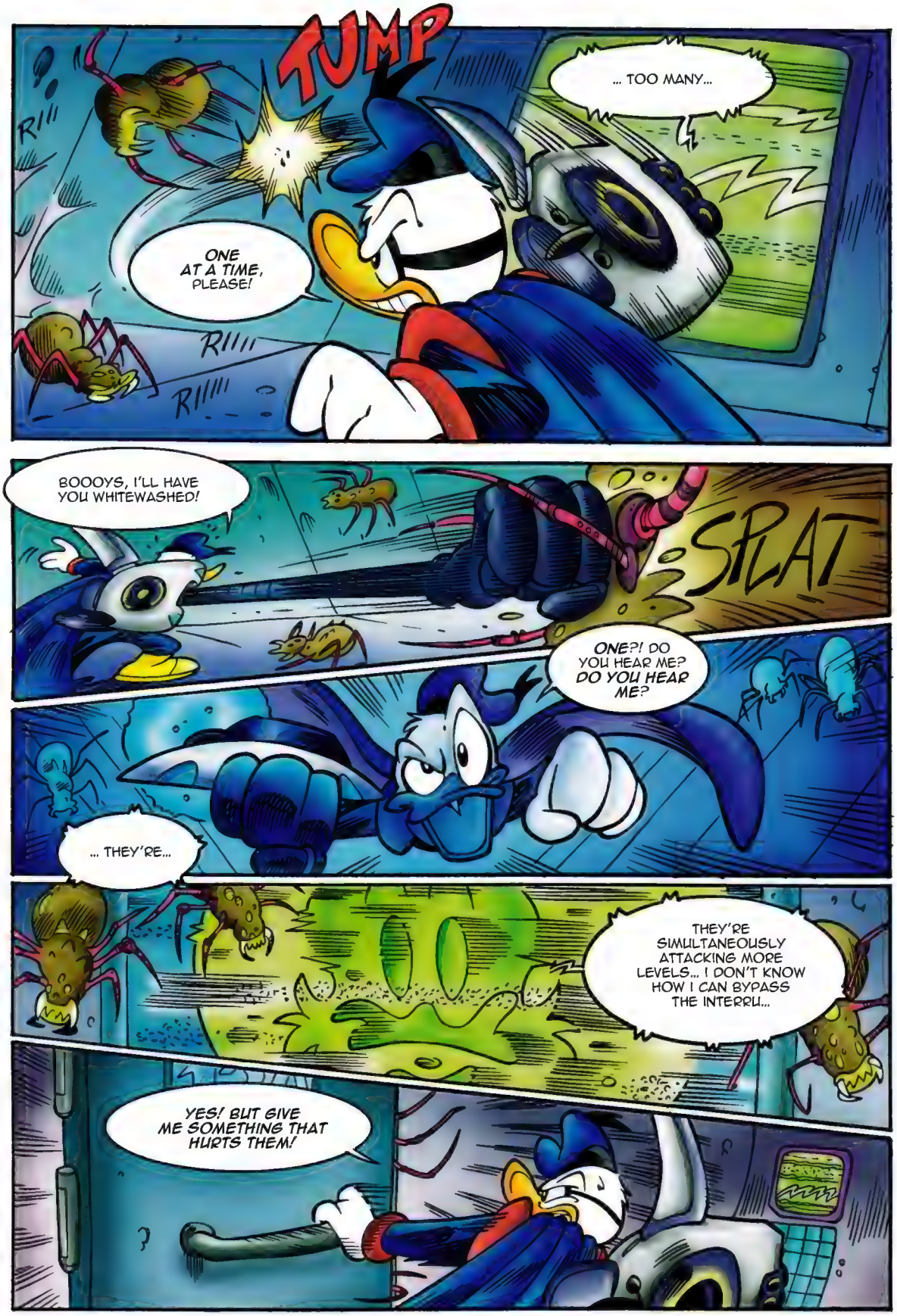

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
W-WHAT'S GOING ON?!
I HAD A MOMENT OF *ABSOLUTE ALARM!* THEN, NOTHING MORE!
ANOTHER VIRUS?
PROBABLY, BUT I'M NOT SURE. I ORDER A SEARCH AT HIGH RESOLUTION. ANY FOREIGN MATTER, DISSIMILAR OR UNFORESEEN, WILL BE REVEALED.
I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND. IF THESE THINGS AGREE.
KNIFF KNIFF
LET THE *HEAD SCOUT* SNIFF YOU FIRST... HE'LL SIGNAL YOU AS *INSIGNIFICANT.*
UH HUH. IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO FEEL APPRECIATED.
KNIFF KNIFF

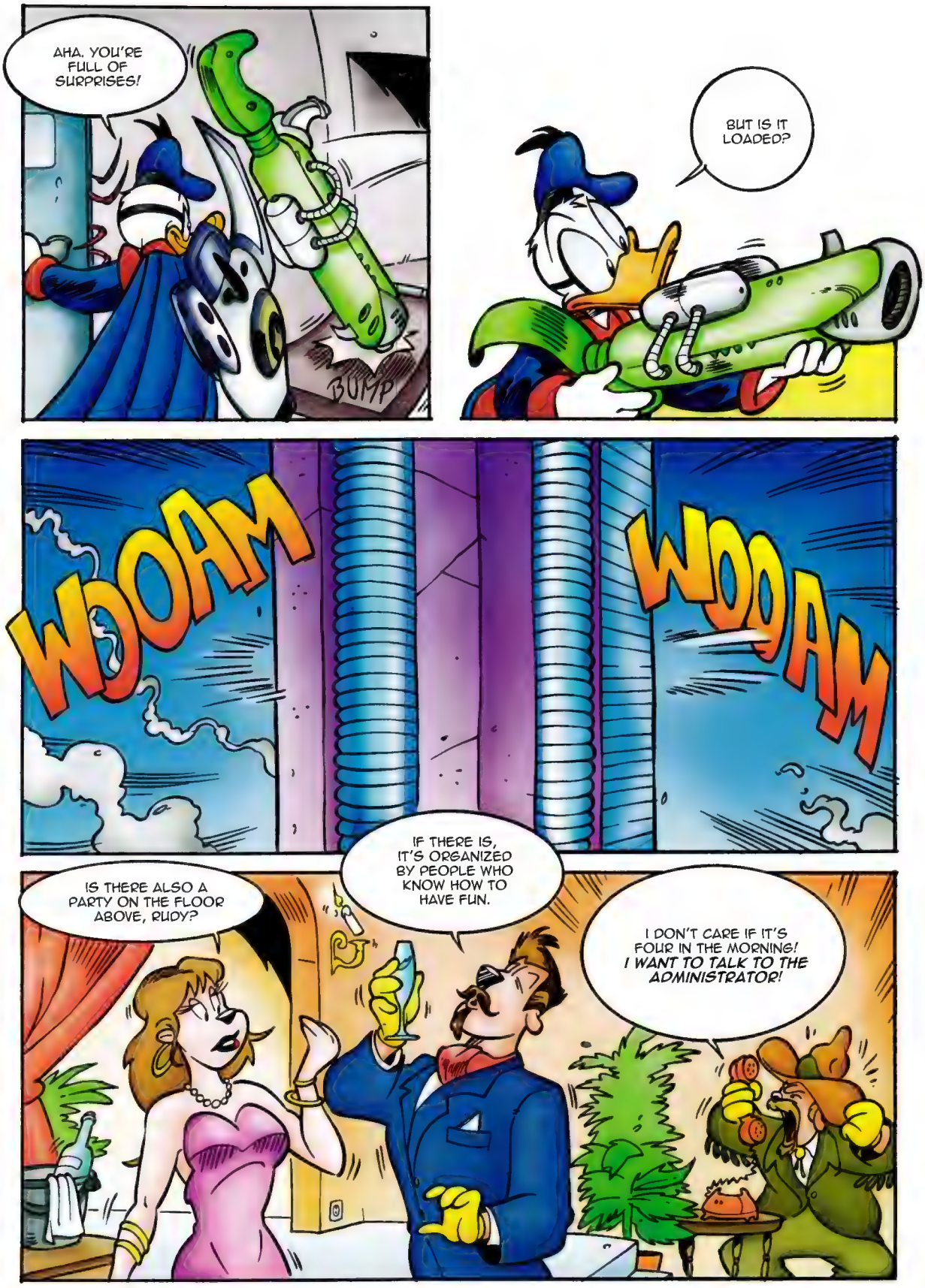

BUT WON'T THEY FIND IT BEFORE...
NOT UNTIL THE MOTHER WANTS THEM TO.
"SHE GROWS, BUT IS IMMOBILE..."
"SHE'S NEITHER COLD OR WARM. SHE HAS NO BREATH. SHE NOURISHES IN SILENCE..."
KNIFF?
12-A
ED
"SHE ANNIHILATES HER PREY, FAST."
RRRR
"DEVOURESS..."


WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING IT MOTHER?
IRONHEART IS NO LONGER ALONE.
"SHE STEALS ENERGY NOT ONLY FOR HERSELF..."
"AND HER OFFSPRING ALREADY PROSPER."
"THEY'RE ALREADY RUNNING, TO HUNT..."
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING. DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING INTERESTING?
NO. BUT SOME UNITS HAVE NOT YET RETURNED... I'LL HAVE TO LOOK AT THEIR DATA TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS.

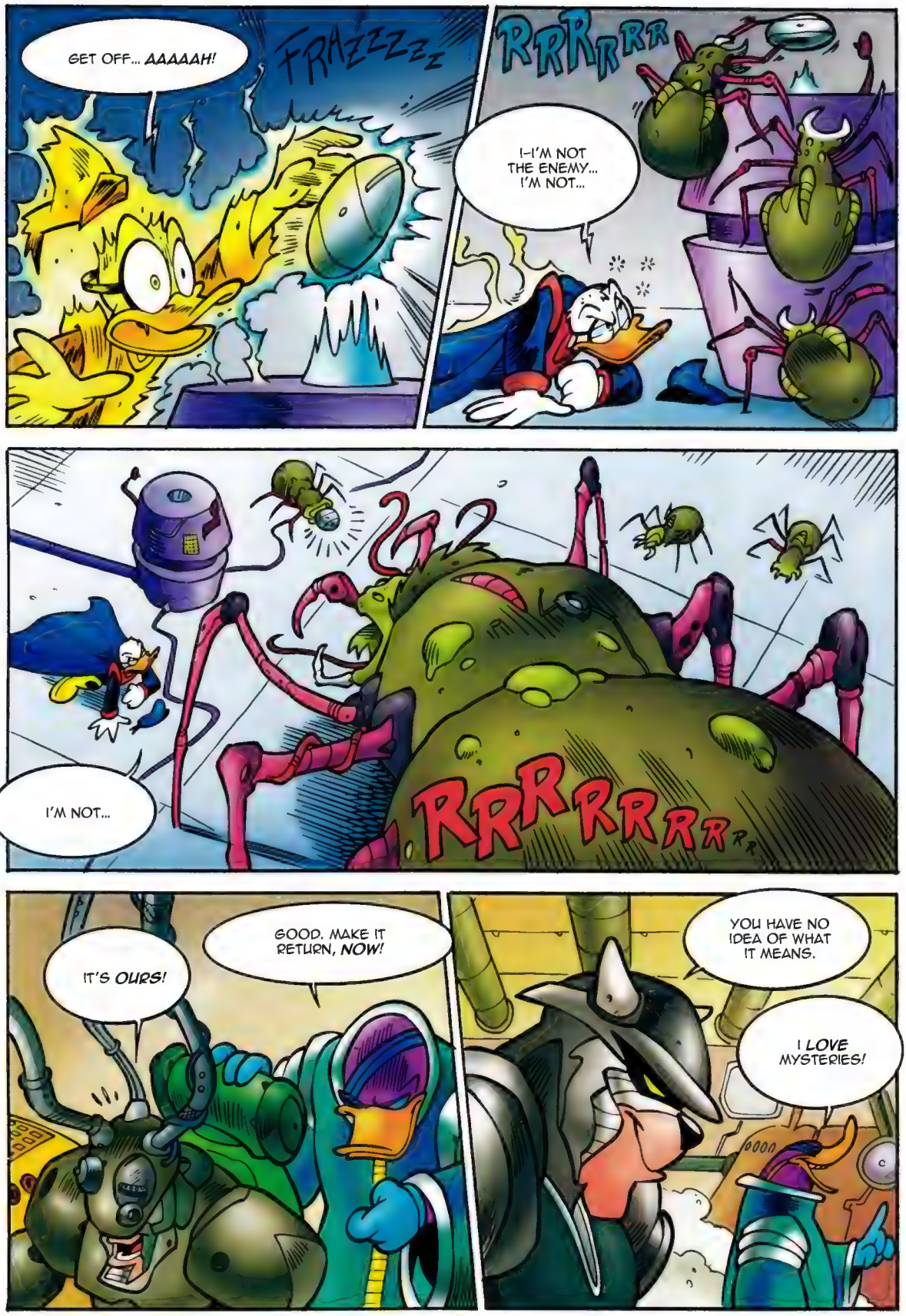

TELL ME MORE!
YES... XADO GREW. SHE WAS STUDIOUS, YOU KNOW? SHE LOVED SCIENCE AND NUMBERS.
SHE COUNTED THE GALAXIES IN OUR QUADRANT. NOT EVEN THE OLD XERGAL HAD ARRIVED AT THAT NUMBER!
"IN THE NUMBERS, SHE READ WORDS. WORDS OF HOPE, OF STRENGTH, OF A NEW LIFE FOR HER PEOPLE."
BUT... SHE ONLY LOVED HER STUDIES?
HE HE! NO... HER HEART WAS BEATING FOR SOMEONE. A FINE YOUNG MAN, XARI.
"BUT XADO'S DESTINY WAS WRITTEN *HIGHER*."


TWELVE DISPERSED AND DEACTIVATED DRONES ON THE 89TH! AND THE HEAD SCOUT IS MISSING!
MUST HAVE STUCK ITS NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG...
LET'S SEE IF I CAN DO IT TOO!
WOOO


JUMP
... TOO MANY...
ONE AT A TIME, PLEASE!
R!!!
R!!!!
R!!!!!
BOOOYS, I'LL HAVE YOU WHITEWASHED!
SPLAT
ONE?! DO YOU HEAR ME? DO YOU HEAR ME?
... THEY'RE...
THEY'RE SIMULTANEOUSLY ATTACKING MORE LEVELS... I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN BYPASS THE INTERRU...
YES! BUT GIVE ME SOMETHING THAT HURTS THEM!


AHA. YOU'RE FULL OF SURPRISES!
BUMP
BUT IS IT LOADED?
WOOAM
WOOAM
IS THERE ALSO A PARTY ON THE FLOOR ABOVE, RUDY?
IF THERE IS, IT'S ORGANIZED BY PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW TO HAVE FUN.
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S FOUR IN THE MORNING! I WANT TO TALK TO THE ADMINISTRATOR!

OOPS. NEVER BEEN GOOD AT ROASTING.
... OTHERS... SEEKING...
WOOAM
SFRIZZLE
SFRIZZLE
SEEKING WHAT?
... FOUND HER...
"I TRUST YOU."
BEAUTY EYES!
GET AWAY! GET AWAAAY!
"IS THERE LIGHT HERE?"


GET OFF... AAAAAH!
FRAZZZZZ
RRRRRRR
I-I'M NOT THE ENEMY... I'M NOT...
I'M NOT...
RRRRRRRR
IT'S OURS!
GOOD. MAKE IT RETURN, NOW!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF WHAT IT MEANS.
I LOVE MYSTERIES!

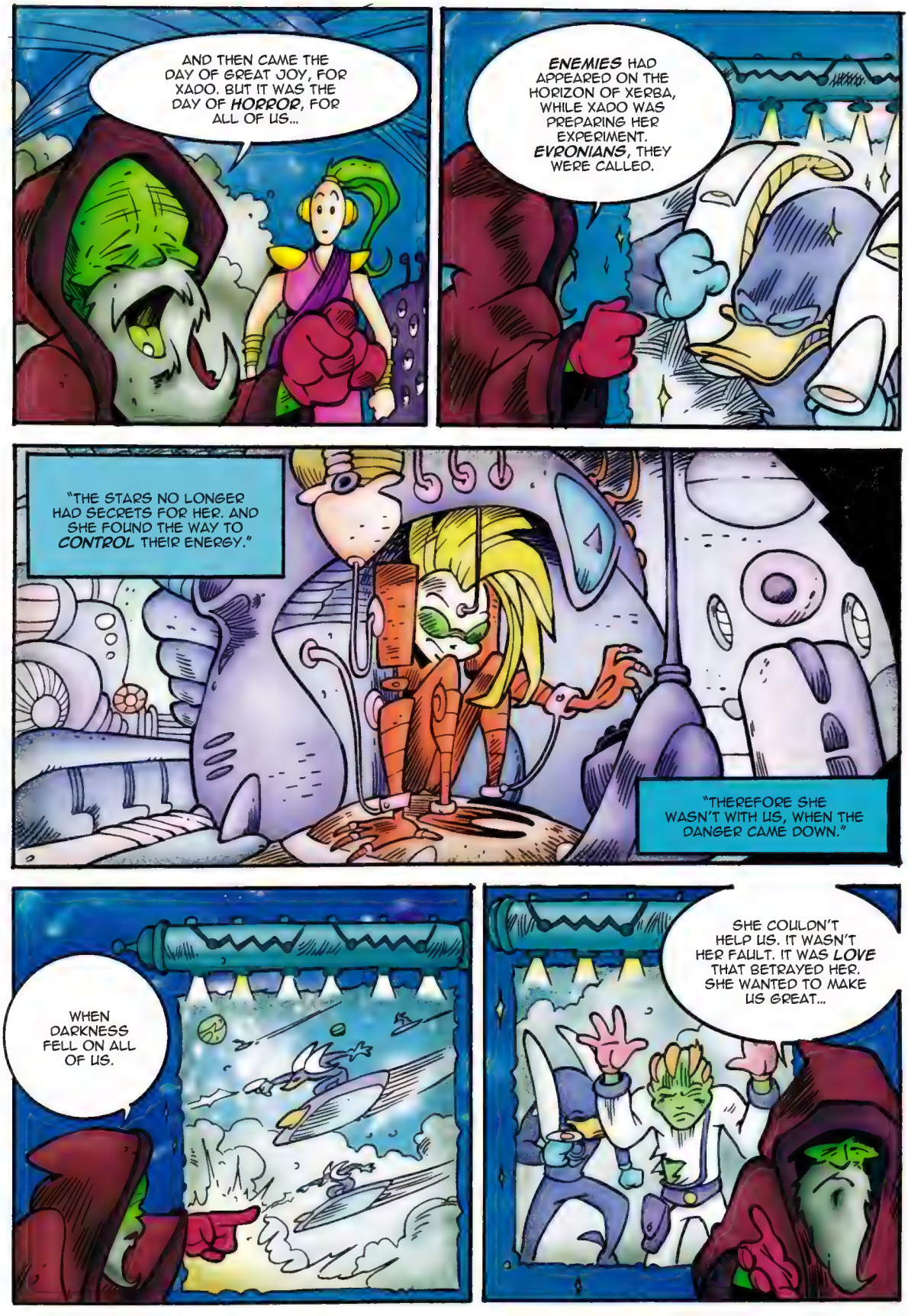
RRRRRRR
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
DID YOU ALSO SEE IT, ONE? WHERE IS IT?
... GONE...
... BUT IT TOOK XADHOOM WITH IT!
AND WITHOUT ANY HASSLE! THAT DISCHARGE KNOCKED ME OUT... I WANTED TO PROTECT HER!
EVIDENTLY, A DEFENSIVE REACTION... AGAINST THE WRONG TARGET.
WELL, ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO GO GET HER BACK.

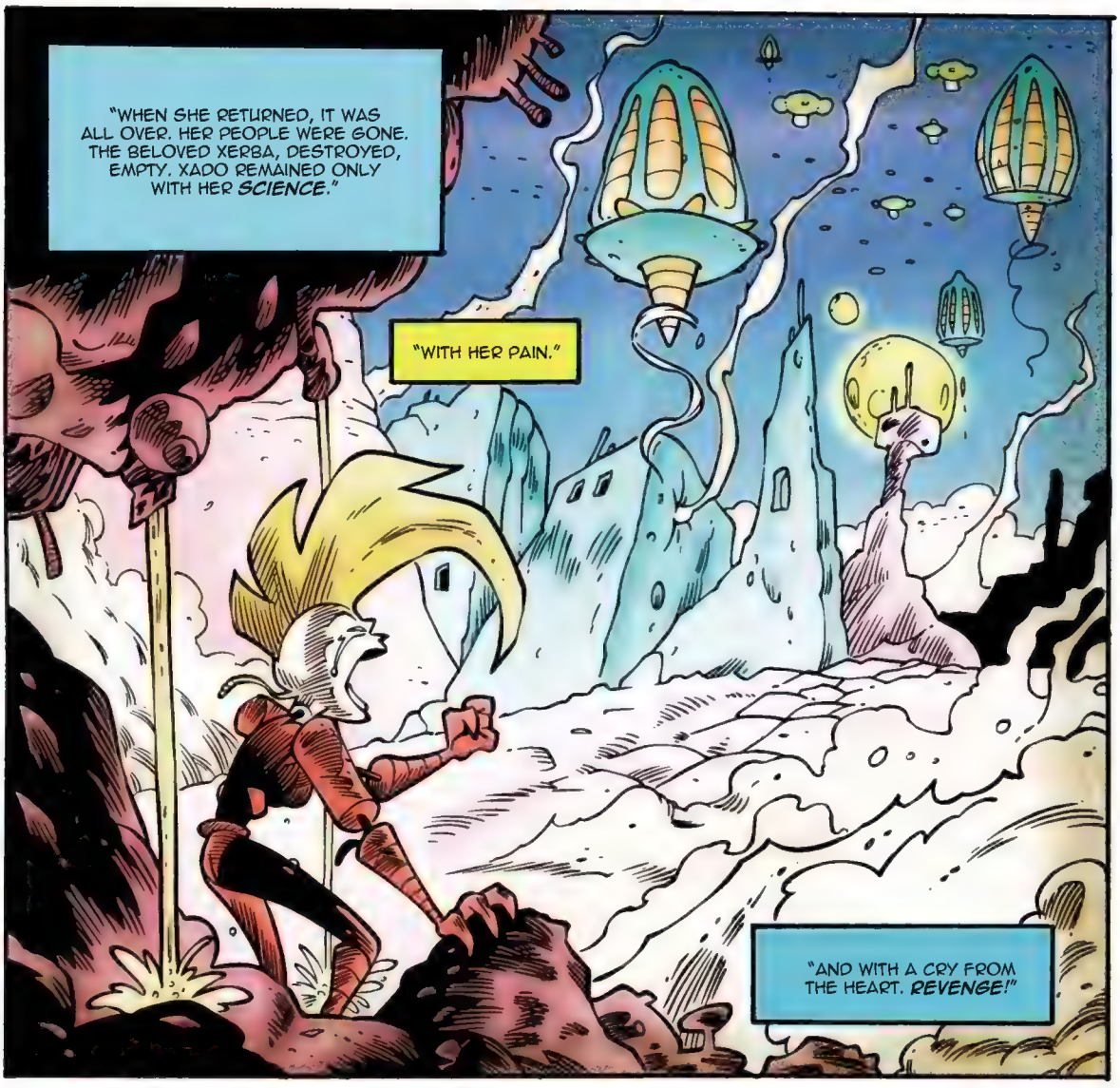
HOW ARE YOU?
LET'S SAY... THAT I *HAVEN'T* SEEN WORSE.
HANG IN THERE.
I'VE INITIALIZED THE *JET'S* ONBOARD COMPUTER.
THAT WAS QUICK! SOMETIMES I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE CAN READ MY MIND...
ME TOO SOMETIMES.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
TAKE OFF. I CAN'T GARAN... MORE THAN ONE MINUTE OF...
YOU'LL EXPLAIN TO ME LATER, HOWEVER.
TAKE OFF!

CAN YOU REMAIN IN RADIO CONTACT?
I THI...
GOOD. GOOD.
SHE'S HERE NOW. THERE'S NOTHING GOOD ABOUT THIS.
LET ME BE ALONE...
NO ONE WILL BE ALONE ANYMORE.

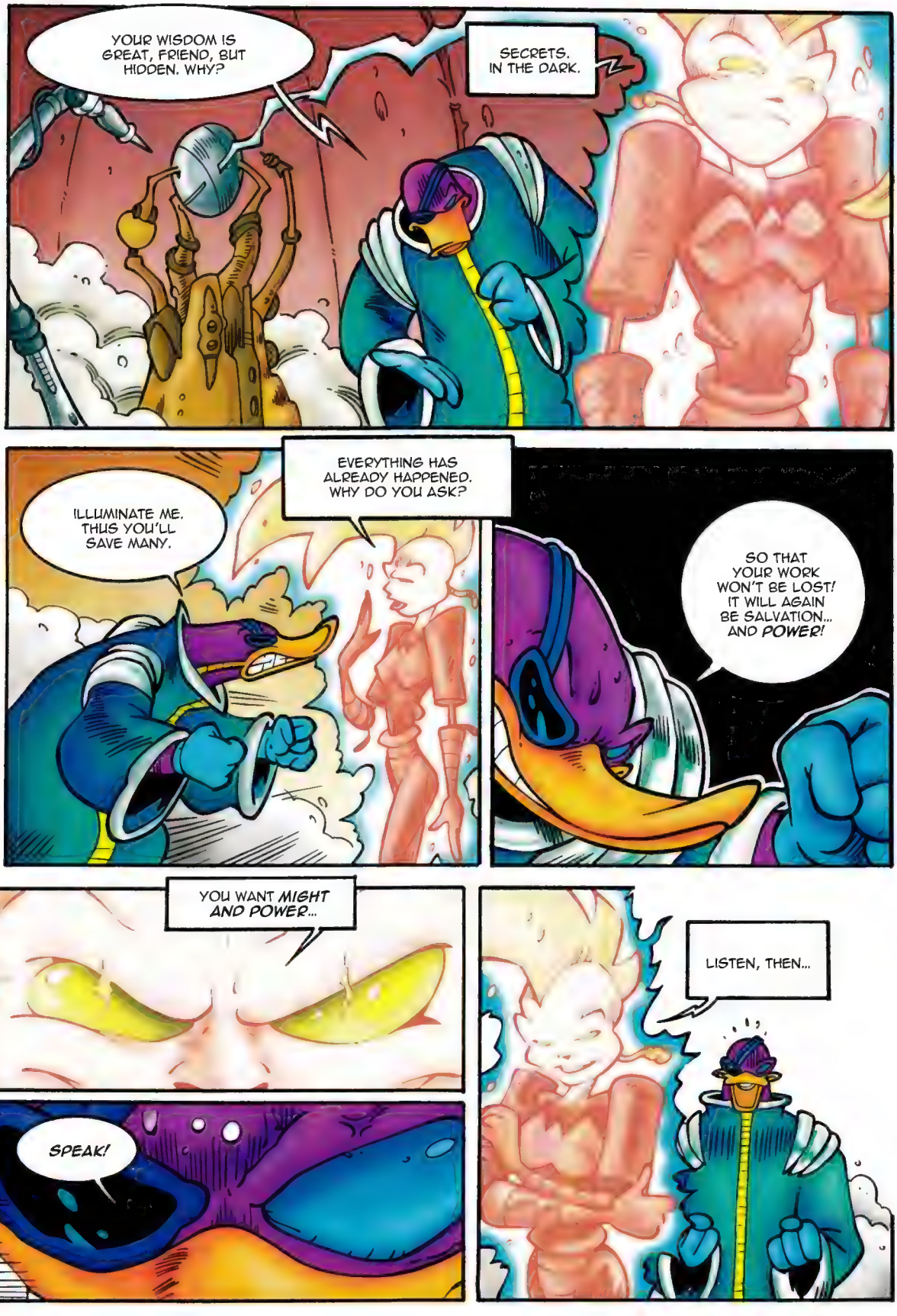
NO ONE WILL REMAIN ALONE HERE ANYMORE. FROM NOW ON, THE MOTHER WILL BE EVERYWHERE, AND BEYOND.
FFFFFFF
VIRUSES! IN CLUSTERS... THIS WON'T BE EASY!
IS THERE LIGHT HERE?
?!
I HAVE ONLY MEMORIES. I TRUST YOU.
YES...

YOUR RESPECT, YOUR HONESTY...
THEY'RE GREAT, MY FRIEND. TELL ME YOUR FEARS, MAKING THEM MINE TOO.
I TRUST YOU.
WITH FULL CONFIDENCE.
WHAT ARE YOUR INTENTIONS, RAWR?
WE'LL GO ALONG WITH ZOSTER, FOR A FEW OURS. IRONHEART WILL SOON HAVE NO MORE FOOD HERE... THUS WE'LL AGAIN AIM FOR THE BLUE PLANET.
IT WILL TAKE A COUPLE OF CENTURIES TO MAKE IT HERS.
BUT I SEE A *RED ONE*, A LITTLE FURTHER, VERY SIMILAR.
LAST LONG, DEVOURESS!


AND THEN CAME THE DAY OF GREAT JOY, FOR XADO. BUT IT WAS THE DAY OF HORROR, FOR ALL OF US...
ENEMIES HAD APPEARED ON THE HORIZON OF XERBA, WHILE XADO WAS PREPARING HER EXPERIMENT. EVRONIANS, THEY WERE CALLED.
"THE STARS NO LONGER HAD SECRETS FOR HER. AND SHE FOUND THE WAY TO CONTROL THEIR ENERGY."
"THEREFORE SHE WASN'T WITH US, WHEN THE DANGER CAME DOWN."
WHEN DARKNESS FELL ON ALL OF US.
SHE COULDN'T HELP US. IT WASN'T HER FAULT. IT WAS LOVE THAT BETRAYED HER. SHE WANTED TO MAKE US GREAT...

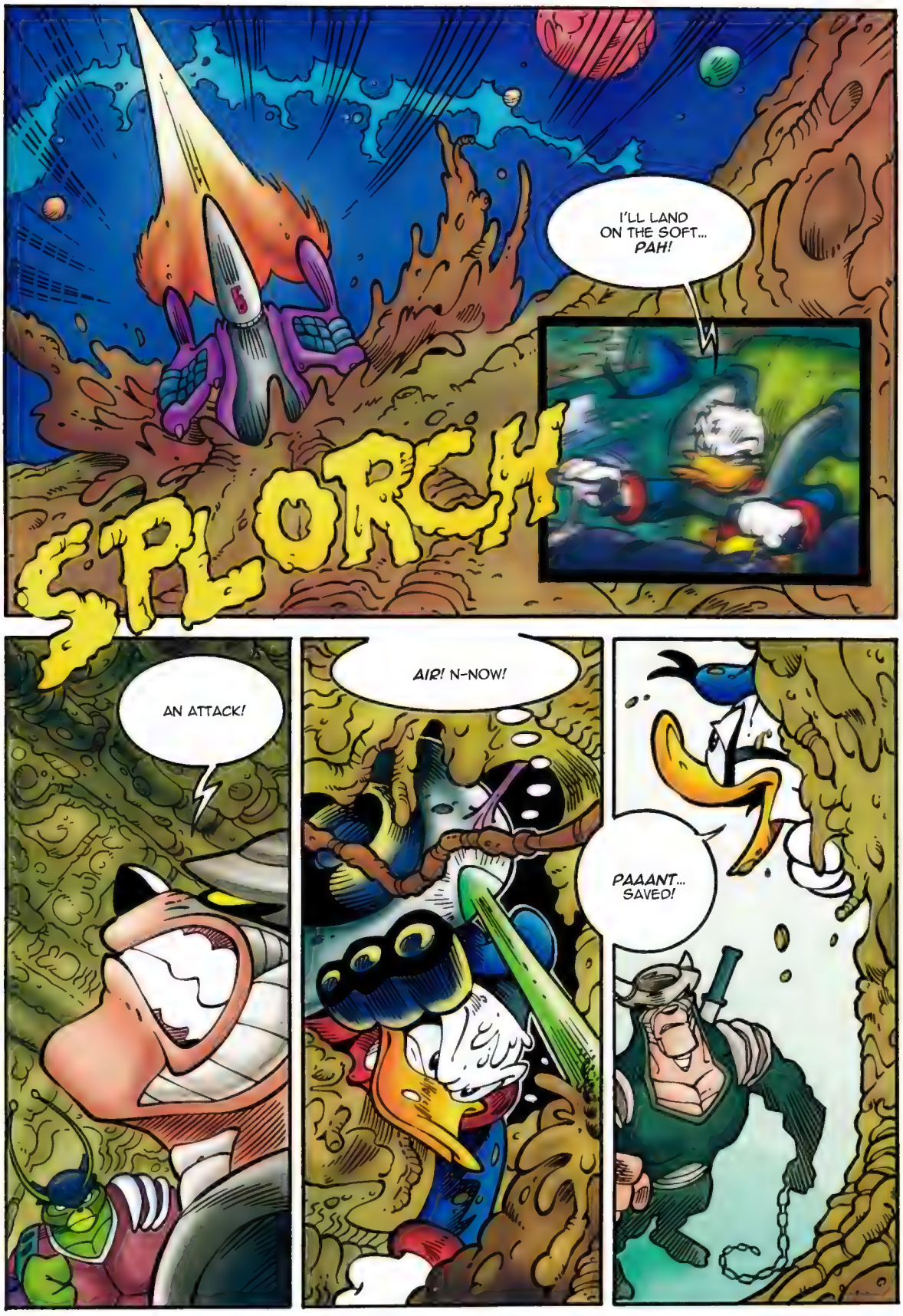

"WHEN SHE RETURNED, IT WAS ALL OVER. HER PEOPLE WERE GONE. THE BELOVED XERBA, DESTROYED, EMPTY. XADO REMAINED ONLY WITH HER SCIENCE."
"WITH HER PAIN."
"AND WITH A CRY FROM THE HEART. REVENGE!"

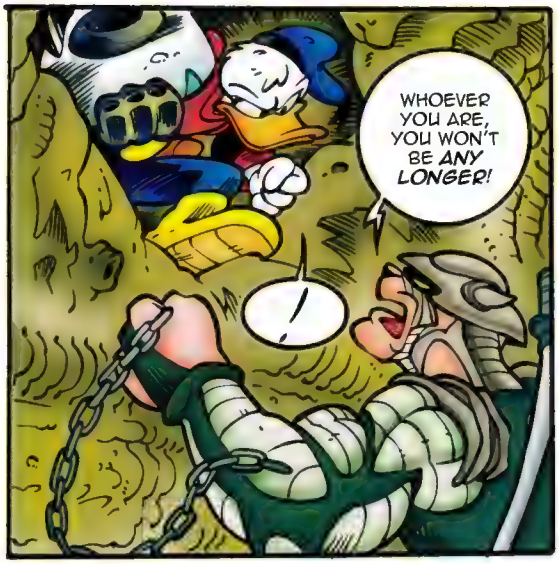
FROM THAT DAY, SHE CALLED HERSELF XADHOOM, THE CREDITRESS!
SHE CHASED THE EVRONIANS THROUGH TIME AND SPACE. SHE NEVER GAVE UP UNTIL THE END.

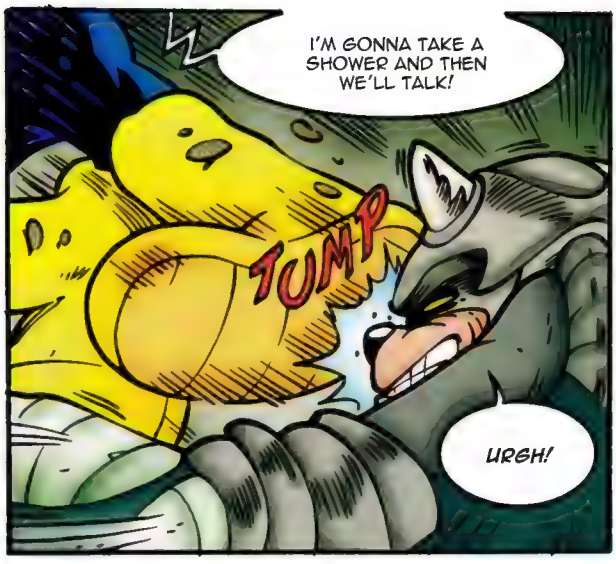

YOUR WISDOM IS GREAT, FRIEND, BUT HIDDEN. WHY?
SECRETS. IN THE DARK.
ILLUMINATE ME. THUS YOU'LL SAVE MANY.
EVERYTHING HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. WHY DO YOU ASK?
SO THAT YOUR WORK WON'T BE LOST! IT WILL AGAIN BE SALVATION... AND *POWER*!
YOU WANT *MIGHT AND POWER*...
SPEAK!
LISTEN, THEN...

IT'S T-THAT *THING!*
IT'S *ENORMOUS* NOW! LOOKS LIKE... IT'S DEVOURING A SPACESHIP, OR WHATEVER THAT IS!
DO YOU HEAR ME, ONE? I NEED ADVICE!
ONE?

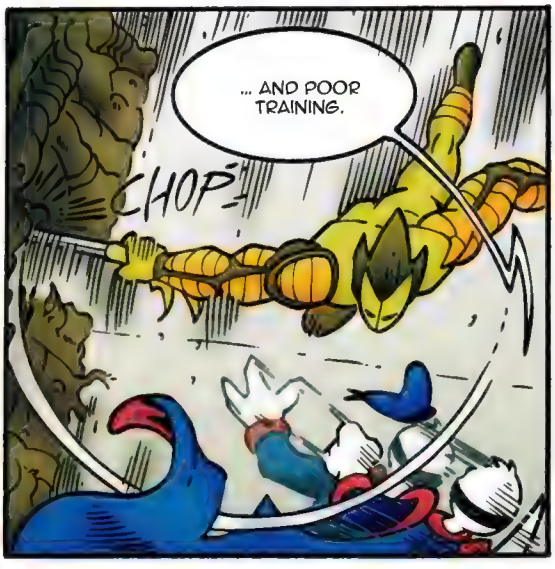
IRONHEART IS GATHERING ENERGY... SHE'S IN HER *PUPAL* STAGE.
T-THE MOTHER IS EVERYWHERE NOW. BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S STOPPING.
WHEN SHE COMES OUT WE'LL RETURN TO THE PLANET. LET'S TAKE CARE OF ZOSTER NOW.
ALRIGHT, I'LL USE MY HEAD...
TLAK
AND DON'T GIVE ME ADVICE, *I MAKE MISTAKES ON MY OWN!*


I'LL LAND ON THE SOFT... PAH!
SPLORCH
AN ATTACK!
AIR! N-NOW!
PAAANT... SAVED!


WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU WON'T BE ANY LONGER!

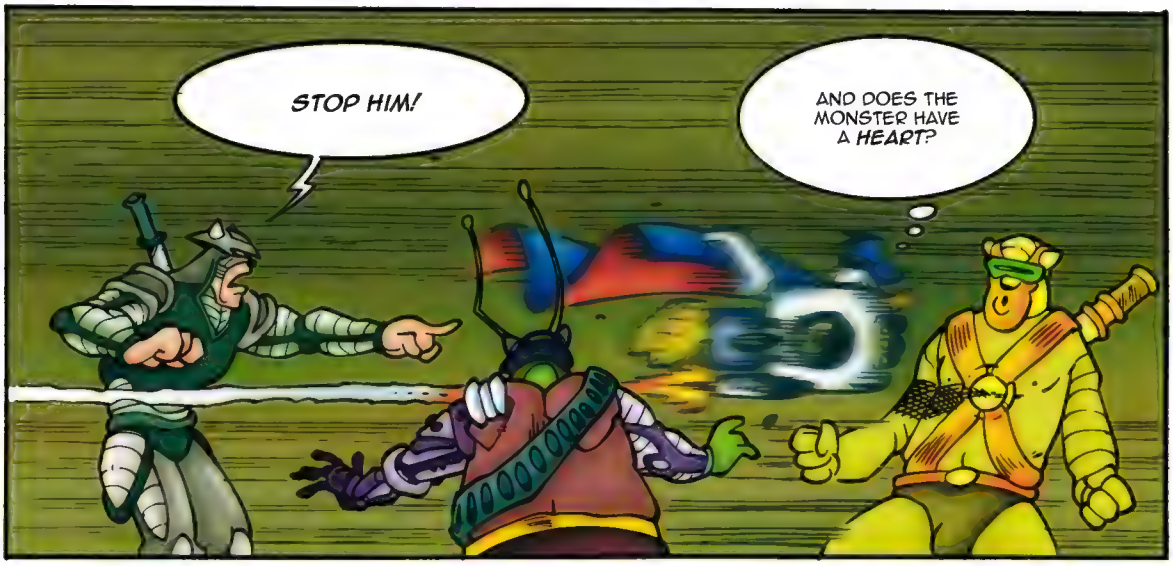

I'M GONNA TAKE A SHOWER AND THEN WE'LL TALK!
JUMP
URGH!

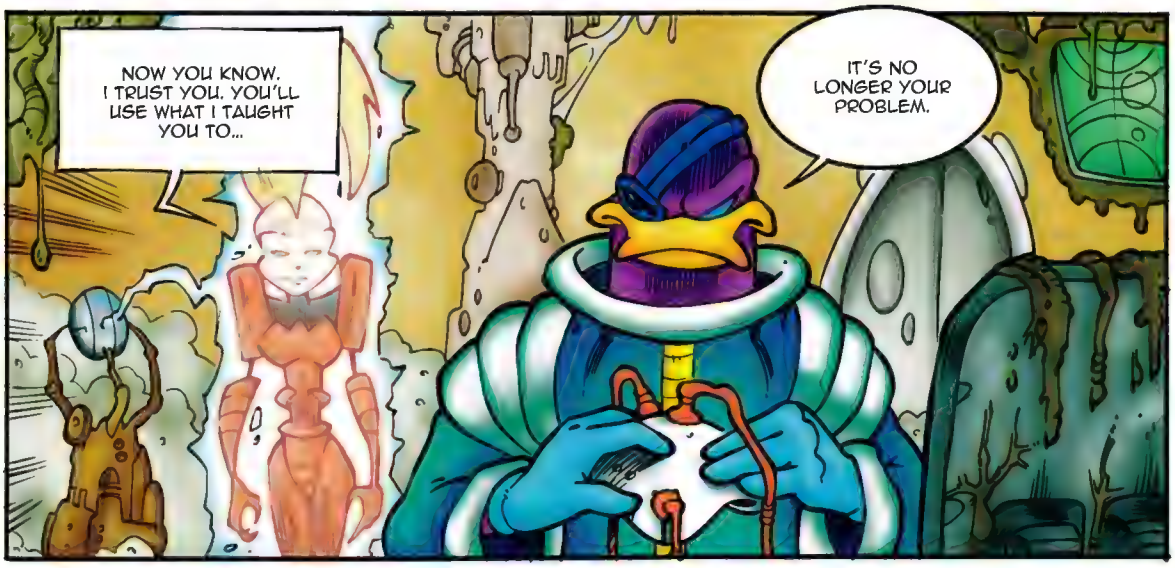
NO SHOOTING, ROHIRR! FINISH HIM OFF WITH THE BLADES!
LONG LIVE GOOD MANNERS...

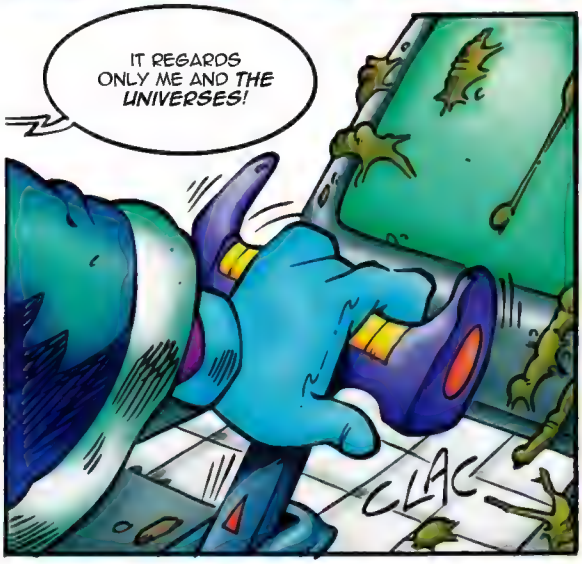

... AND POOR TRAINING.
CHOP!

WATCH THE MOTHER!

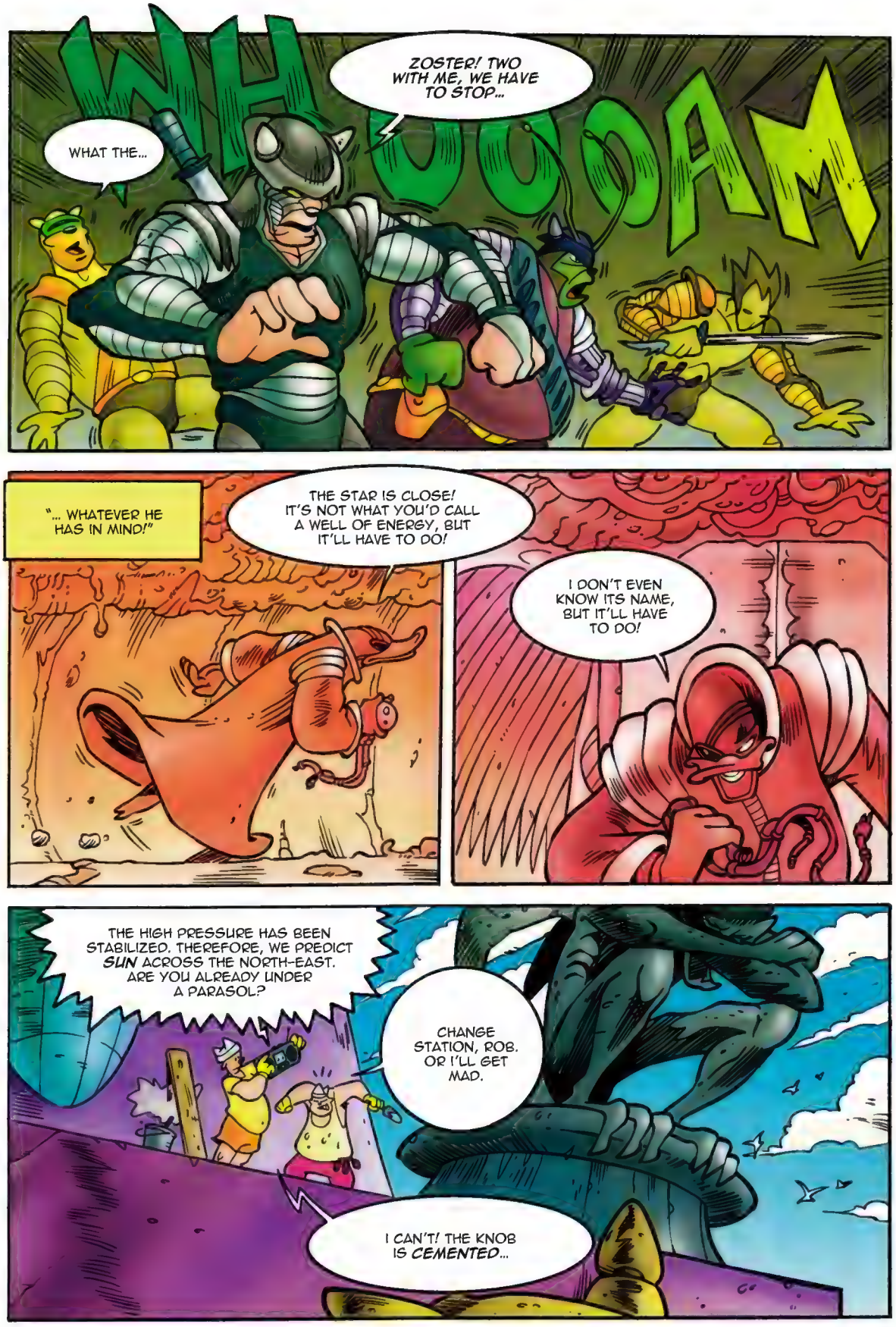
SO, YOU'RE SOFTIES FOR INSECTS!


STOP HIM!
AND DOES THE MONSTER HAVE A HEART?

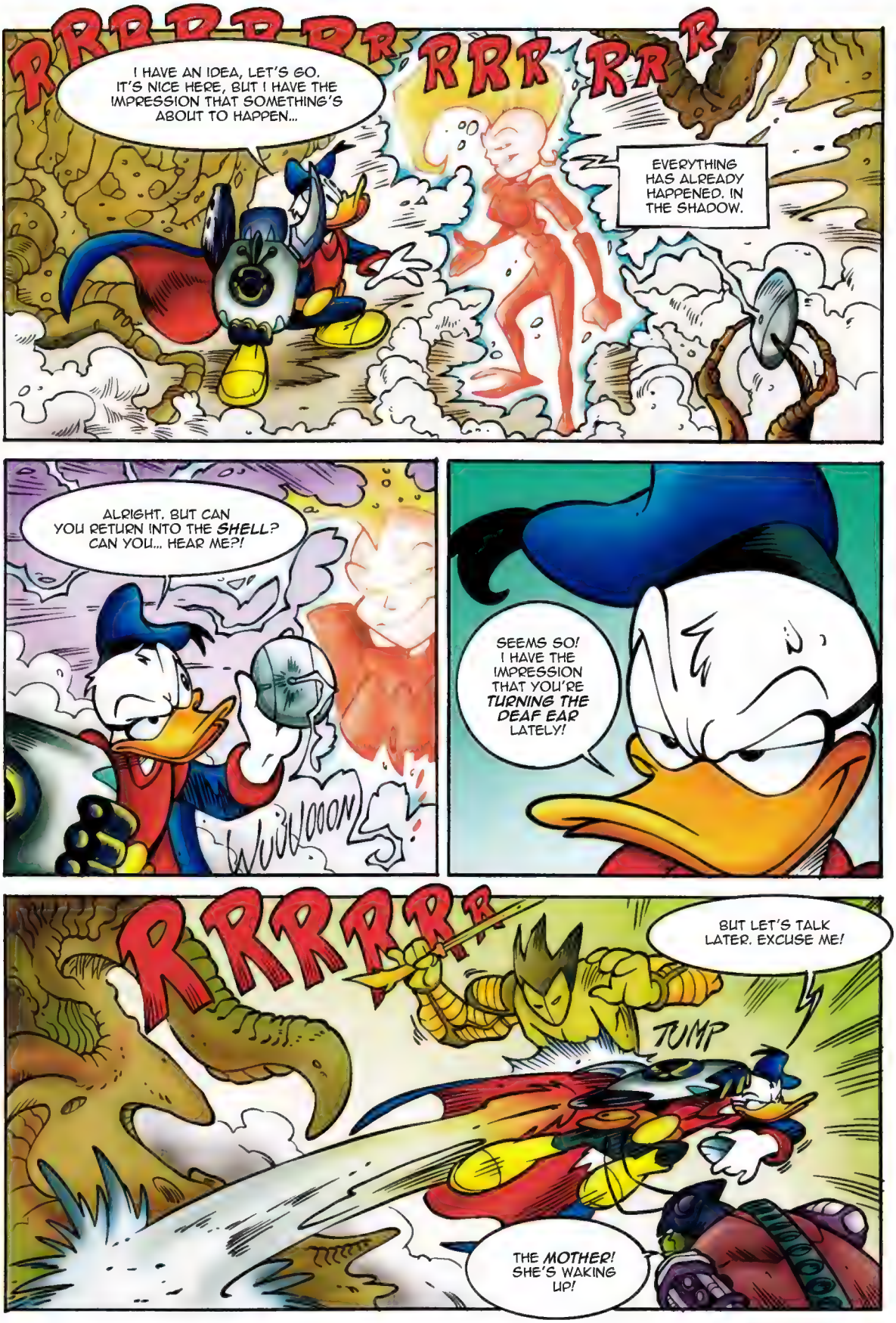

NOW YOU KNOW. I TRUST YOU. YOU'LL USE WHAT I TAUGHT YOU TO...
IT'S NO LONGER YOUR PROBLEM.


IT REGARDS ONLY ME AND THE UNIVERSES!
CLAC

WHOAAAM


WHOOOAM
WHAT THE...
ZOSTER! TWO WITH ME, WE HAVE TO STOP...
"... WHATEVER HE HAS IN MIND!"
THE STAR IS CLOSE! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU'D CALL A WELL OF ENERGY, BUT IT'LL HAVE TO DO!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW ITS NAME, BUT IT'LL HAVE TO DO!
THE HIGH PRESSURE HAS BEEN STABILIZED. THEREFORE, WE PREDICT SUN ACROSS THE NORTH-EAST. ARE YOU ALREADY UNDER A PARASOL?
CHANGE STATION, ROB. OR I'LL GET MAD.
I CAN'T! THE KNOB IS CEMENTED...

BEAUTY EYES?
IS THERE LIGHT HERE?
SLASH
MY NEPHEWS WOULD LIKE THIS PLACE! STICKY AND REVOLTING...
... LIKE THEIR FAVORITE CHEWING GUM!
SPLORCH
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN! WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?
SECRETS. IN THE SHADOW.

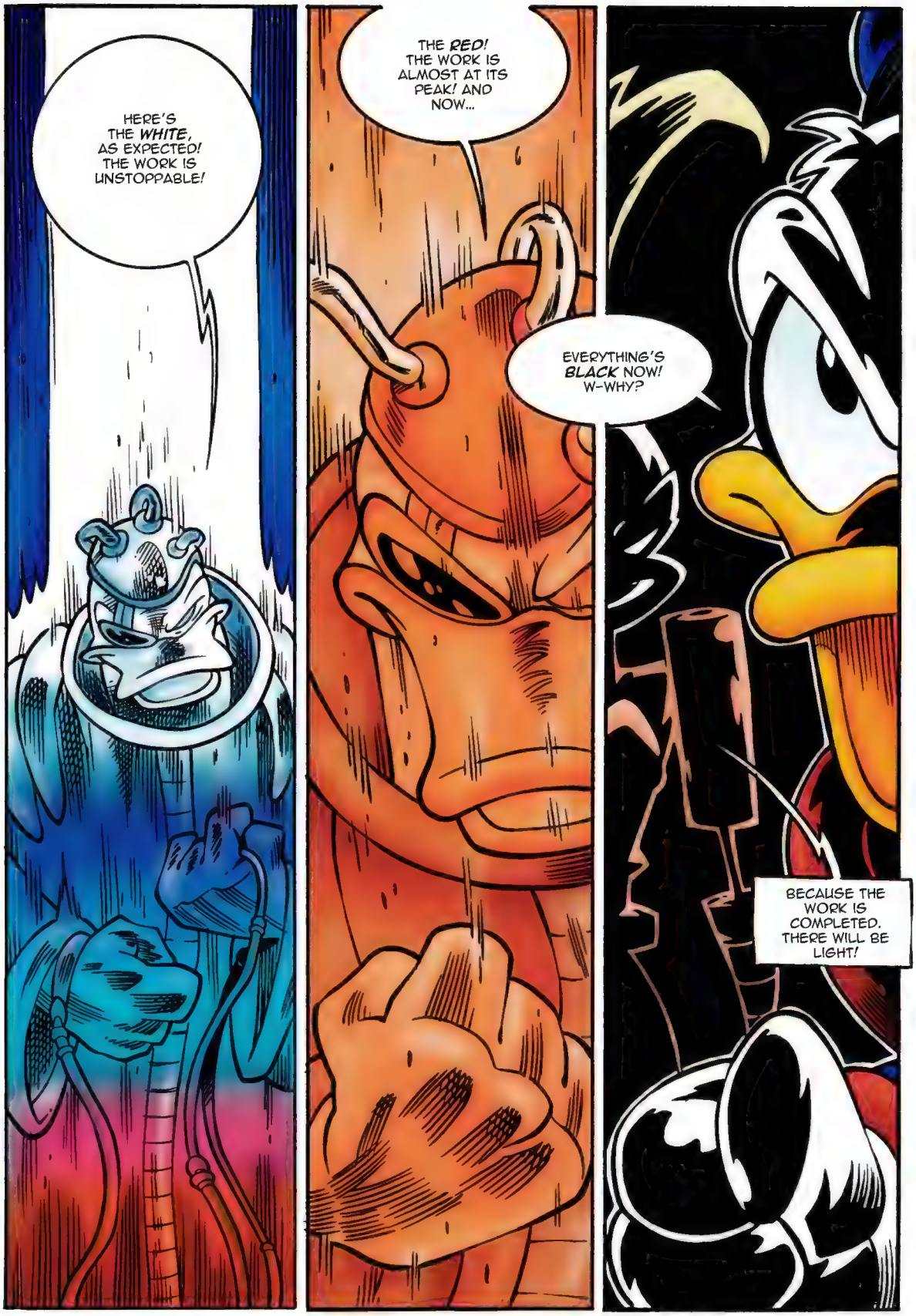

RRRRRRRRRRRR
I HAVE AN IDEA, LET'S GO. IT'S NICE HERE, BUT I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN...
EVERYTHING HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. IN THE SHADOW.
ALRIGHT. BUT CAN YOU RETURN INTO THE SHELL? CAN YOU... HEAR ME?!
WUUUOOOM
SEEMS SO! I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU'RE TURNING THE DEAF EAR LATELY!
RRRRRRR
BUT LET'S TALK LATER. EXCUSE ME!
JUMP
THE MOTHER! SHE'S WAKING UP!

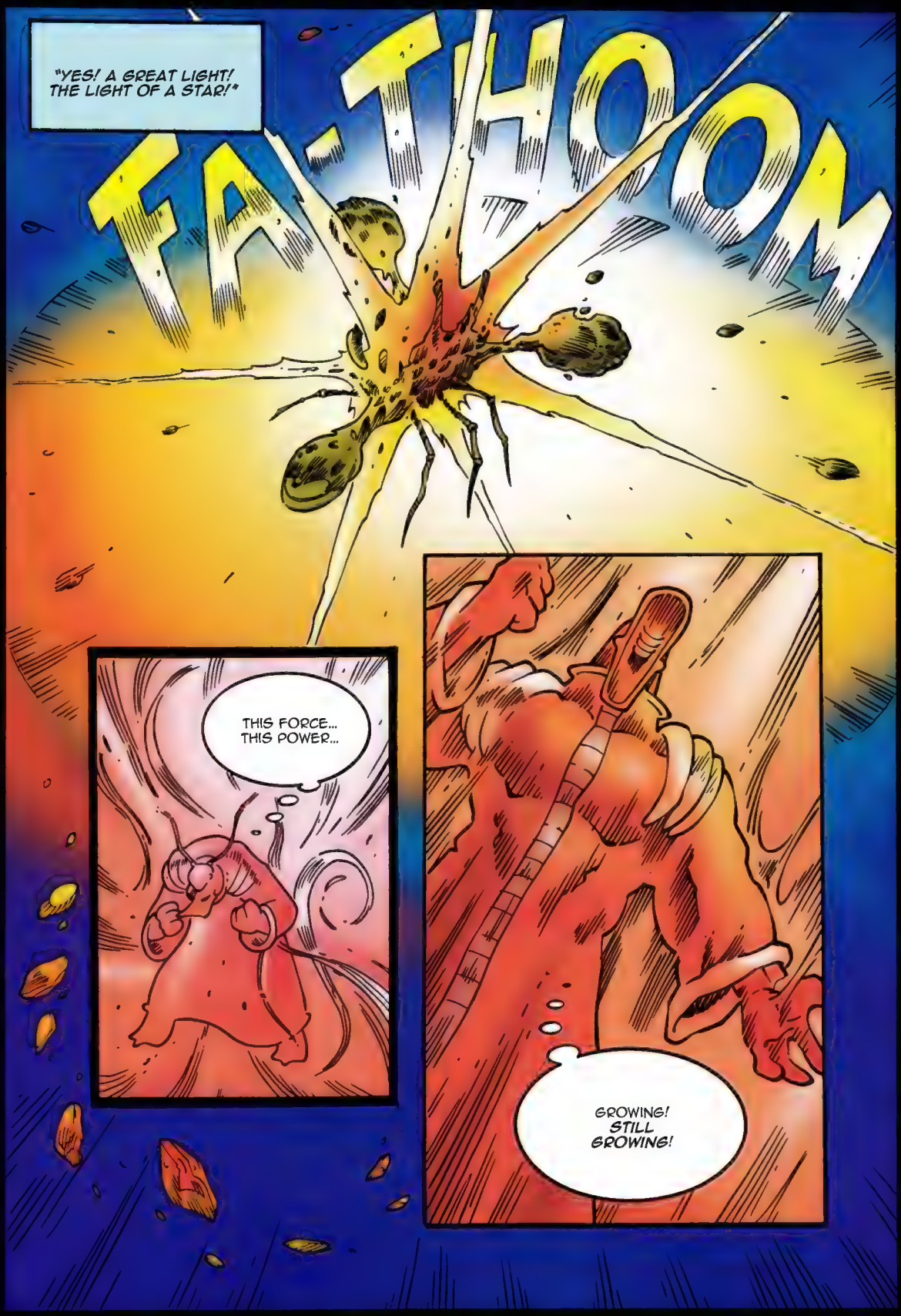
RRRRRR
ZOSTER! HE'S CLOSED HIMSELF NEXT TO THE HEART!
CURSE HIS NAME! THE MOTHER SUFFERS!
THE INSTRUMENT IS SIMPLE. BUT THE GIRL WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A GENIUS.
ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE, DISPERSED THROUGHOUT CENTURIES AND WORLDS, CONJUGATED TO SCIENCE. THERMONUCLEAR ALCHEMY...

THE GREAT WORK OF HYDROGEN AND HELIUM STARS...
HERE! TO ME! NOW!

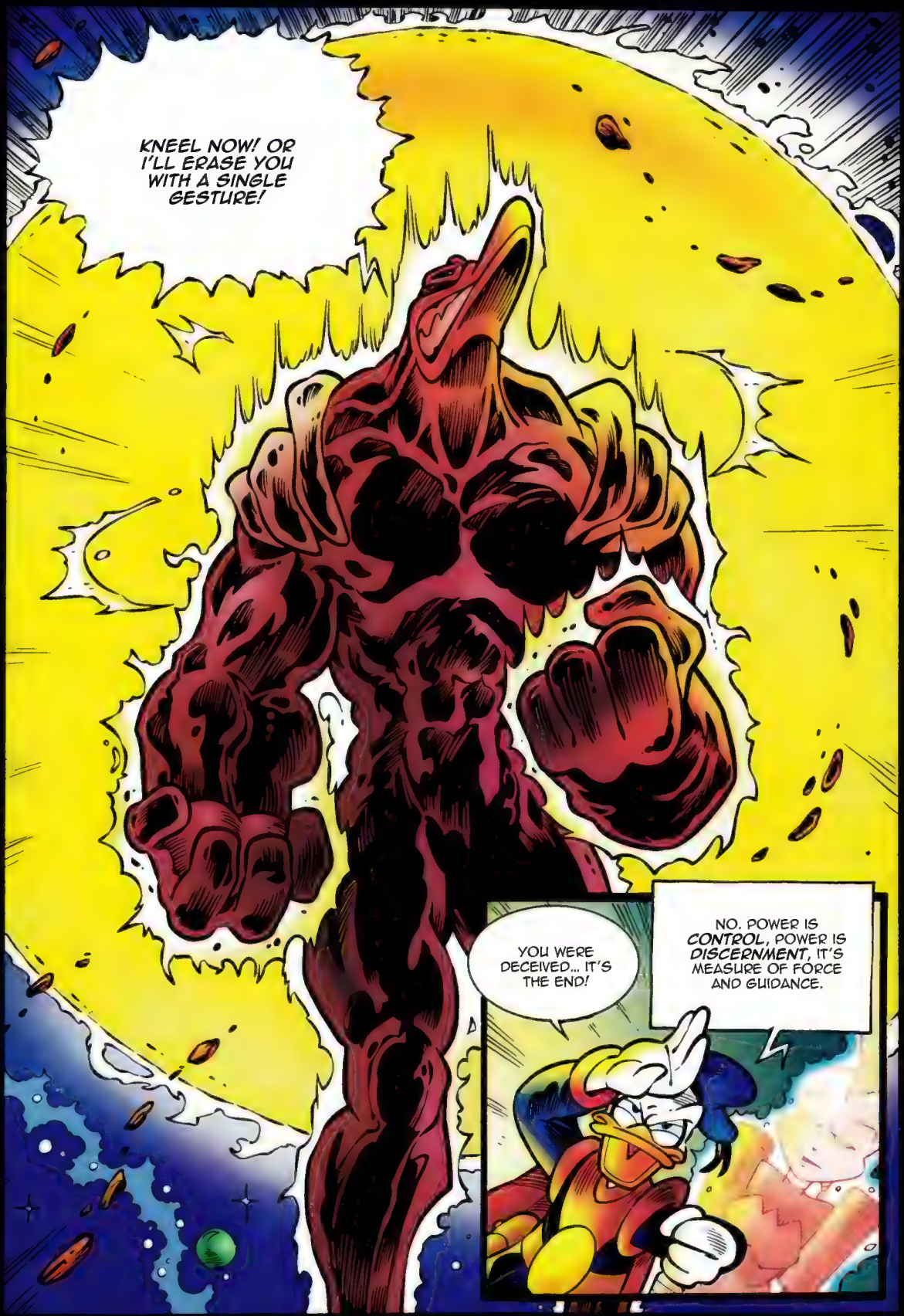
STICKY, REVOLTING AND HOT! THE AMBIENCE IS WORSENING BEFORE MY EYES...
HOWEVER, TAKE HEART. WE'RE ABOUT TO LEAVE!
POP
IT ALL WENT UP IN SMOKE...
POP
FRIZZLE
NEED A HAND?
ONE! YOU'VE RECOVERED?
A LITTLE. ENOUGH FOR A... PROCEDURE OF REMOTE GUIDANCE!

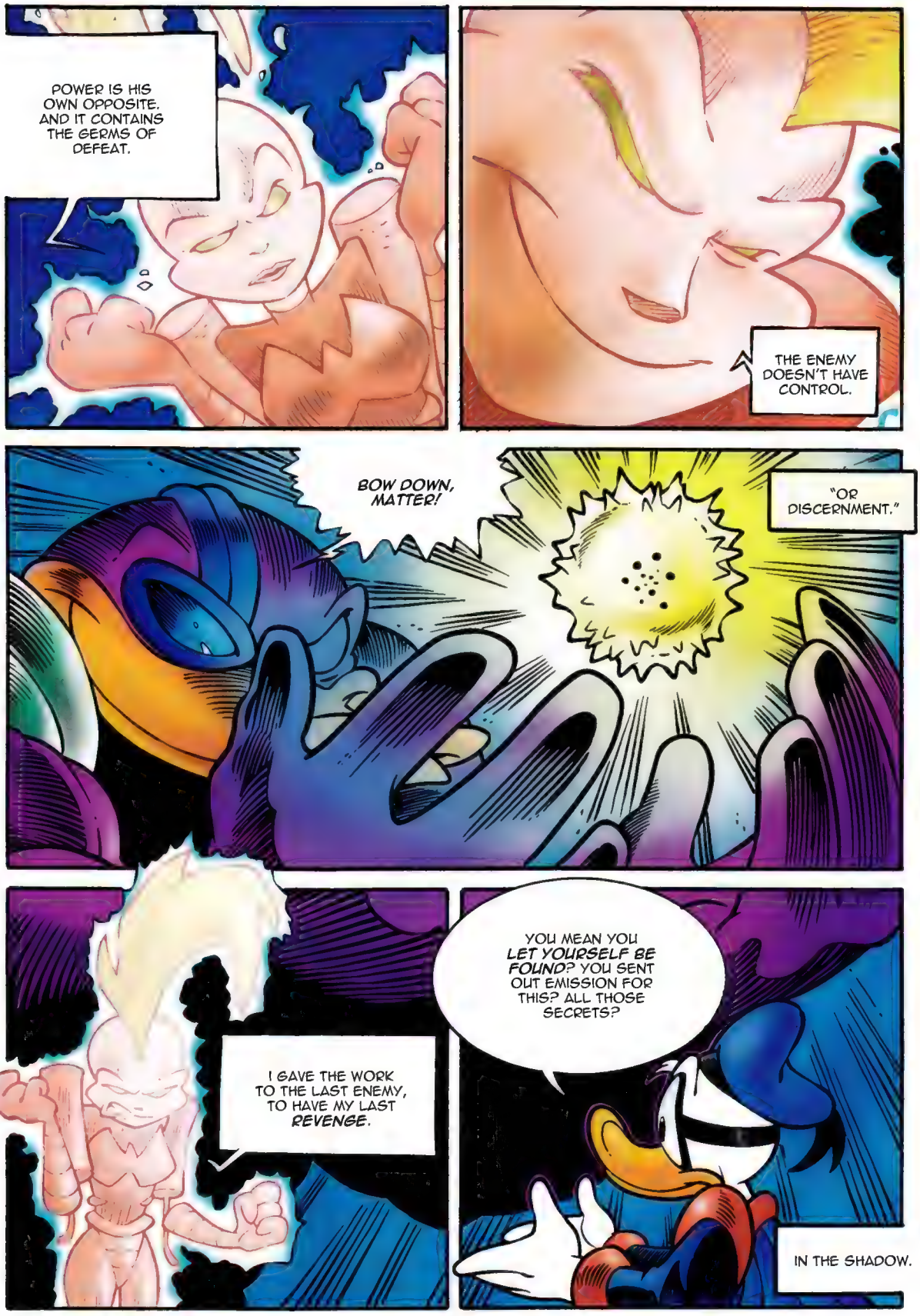
"HOLD ON."
WAMP
SFRASH
WE'RE FREE! WHAT'S MY CURRENT POSITION?
I BETTER NOT SAY. YOU'RE FAR, FAR AWAY.
HOWEVER, I HAVE XADHOOM WITH ME! THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT!
IS THERE LIGHT HERE?

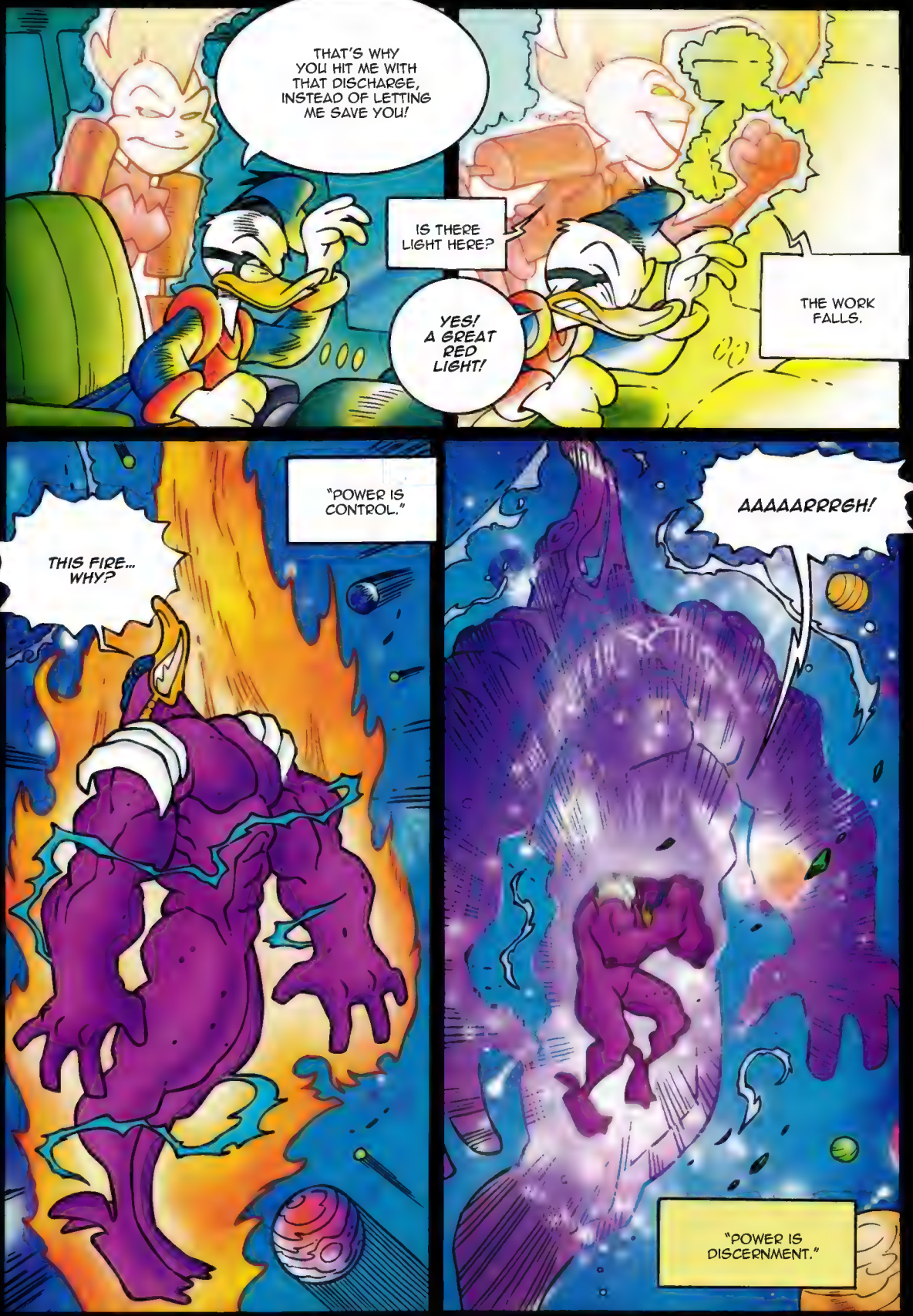

HERE'S THE WHITE, AS EXPECTED! THE WORK IS UNSTOPPABLE!
THE RED! THE WORK IS ALMOST AT ITS PEAK! AND NOW...
EVERYTHING'S BLACK NOW! W-WHY?
BECAUSE THE WORK IS COMPLETED. THERE WILL BE LIGHT!


"YES! A GREAT LIGHT! THE LIGHT OF A STAR!"
FA-THOOM
THIS FORCE... THIS POWER...
GROWING! STILL GROWING!

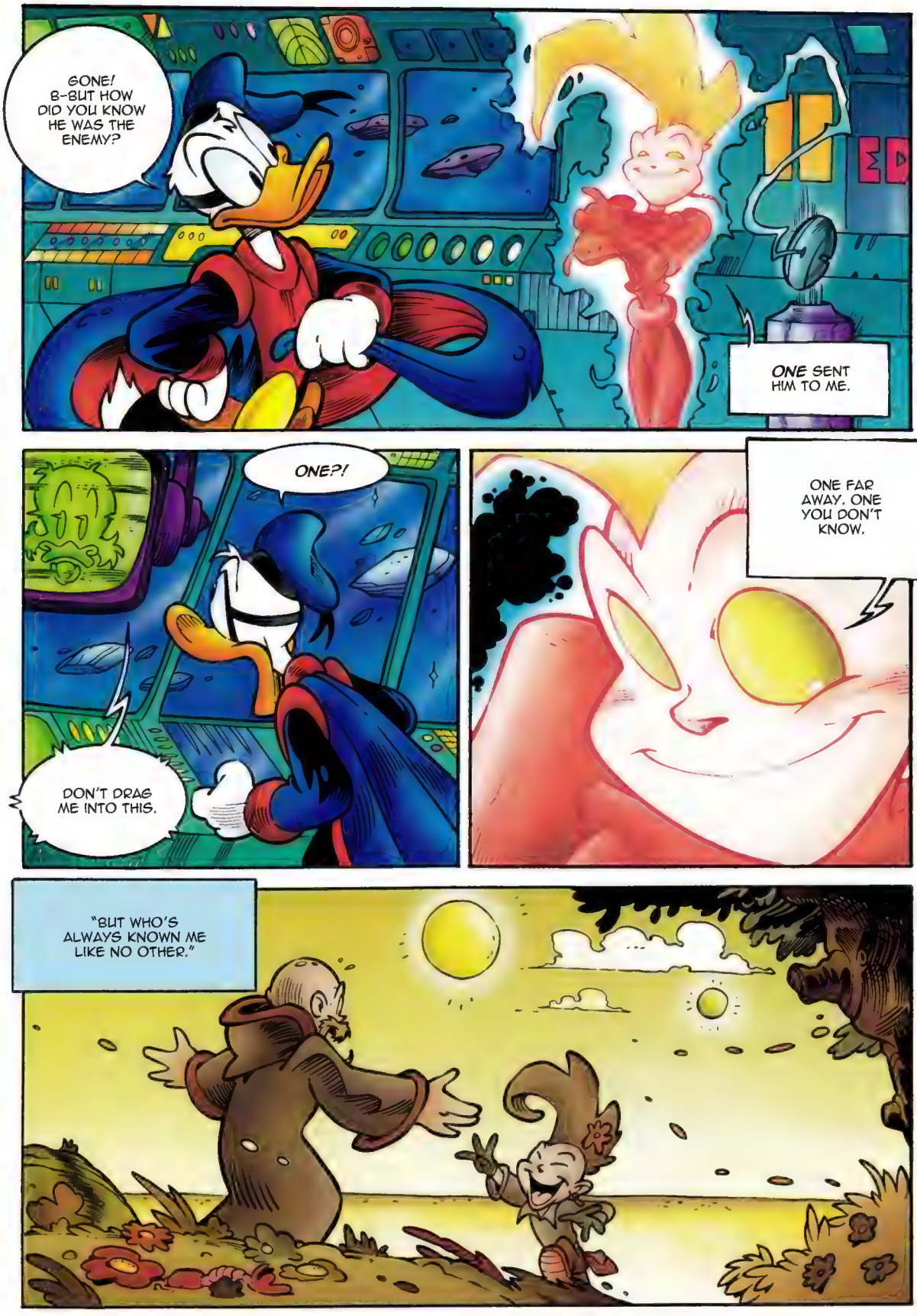
WHO... IS THAT?
THE NEW LORD OF THE STARS. I'VE INSTRUCTED HIM, I'VE FORMED HIM. I GAVE HIM MIGHT AND POWER!
YOU WERE DECEIVED! HE'S THE ENEMY!
YES. I CALLED UPON HIM, IN THE SHADOW, AND HE CAME. I'VE INSTRUCTED HIM.
ON YOUR KNEES, WORLDS!

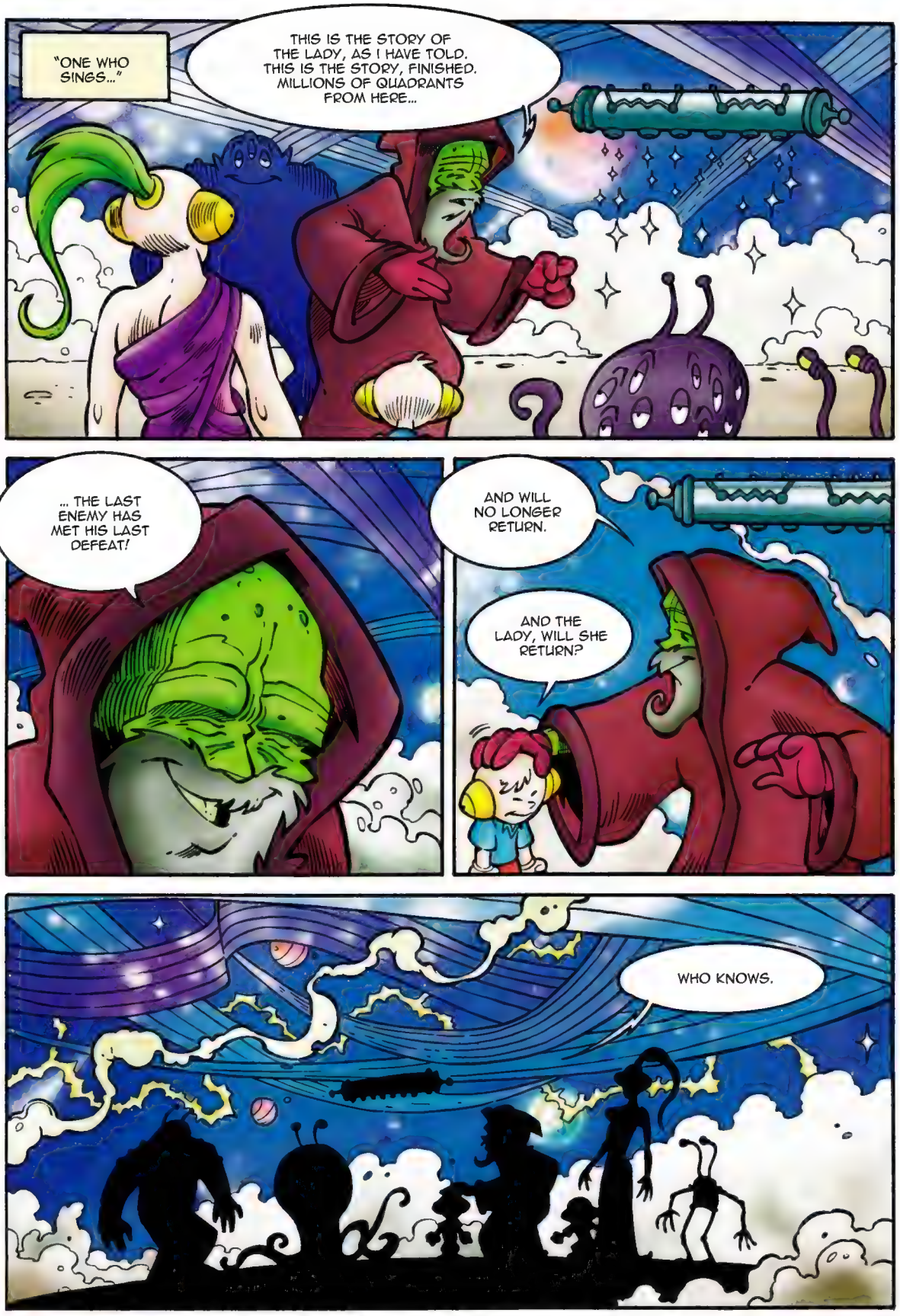

KNEEL NOW! OR I'LL ERASE YOU WITH A SINGLE GESTURE!
YOU WERE DECEIVED... IT'S THE END!
NO. POWER IS CONTROL, POWER IS DISCERNMENT, IT'S MEASURE OF FORCE AND GUIDANCE.


POWER IS HIS OWN OPPOSITE. AND IT CONTAINS THE GERMS OF DEFEAT.
THE ENEMY DOESN'T HAVE CONTROL.
BOW DOWN, MATTER!
"OR DISCERNMENT."
I GAVE THE WORK TO THE LAST ENEMY, TO HAVE MY LAST REVENGE.
YOU MEAN YOU LET YOURSELF BE FOUND? YOU SENT OUT EMISSION FOR THIS? ALL THOSE SECRETS?
IN THE SHADOW.

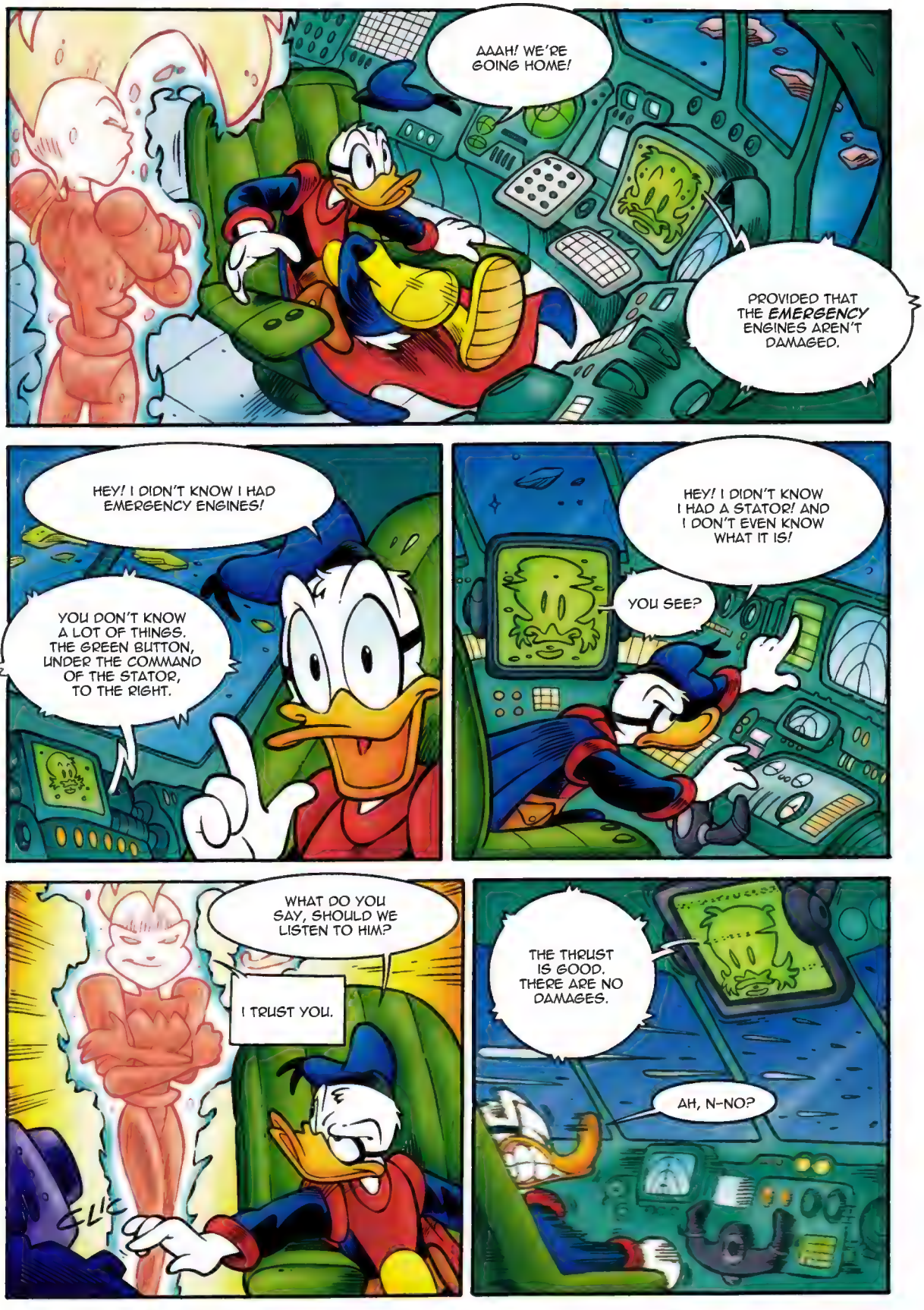

THAT'S WHY YOU HIT ME WITH THAT DISCHARGE, INSTEAD OF LETTING ME SAVE YOU!
IS THERE LIGHT HERE?
YES! A GREAT RED LIGHT!
THE WORK FALLS.
"POWER IS CONTROL."
THIS FIRE... WHY?
AAAAARRRGH!
"POWER IS DISCERNMENT."

POWER IS HIS OWN OPPOSITE, AND CONTAINS THE GERMS OF DEFEAT.


GONE! B-BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW HE WAS THE ENEMY?
ONE SENT HIM TO ME.
ONE?!
DON'T DRAG ME INTO THIS.
ONE FAR AWAY. ONE YOU DON'T KNOW.
"BUT WHO'S ALWAYS KNOWN ME LIKE NO OTHER."


"ONE WHO SINGS..."
THIS IS THE STORY OF THE LADY, AS I HAVE TOLD. THIS IS THE STORY, FINISHED. MILLIONS OF QUADRANTS FROM HERE...
... THE LAST ENEMY HAS MET HIS LAST DEFEAT!
AND WILL NO LONGER RETURN.
AND THE LADY, WILL SHE RETURN?
WHO KNOWS.

IT'S A NICE STORY, OLD MAN. WHERE HAVE YOU LEARNED IT?
I HAVEN'T LEARNED IT. I'VE EXPERI-ENCED IT.
THE LADY... THE LADY WAS MY DAUGHTER.
COME NOW.
I WANT ANOTHER STORY.
COME NOW, I SAID.
REST NOW...

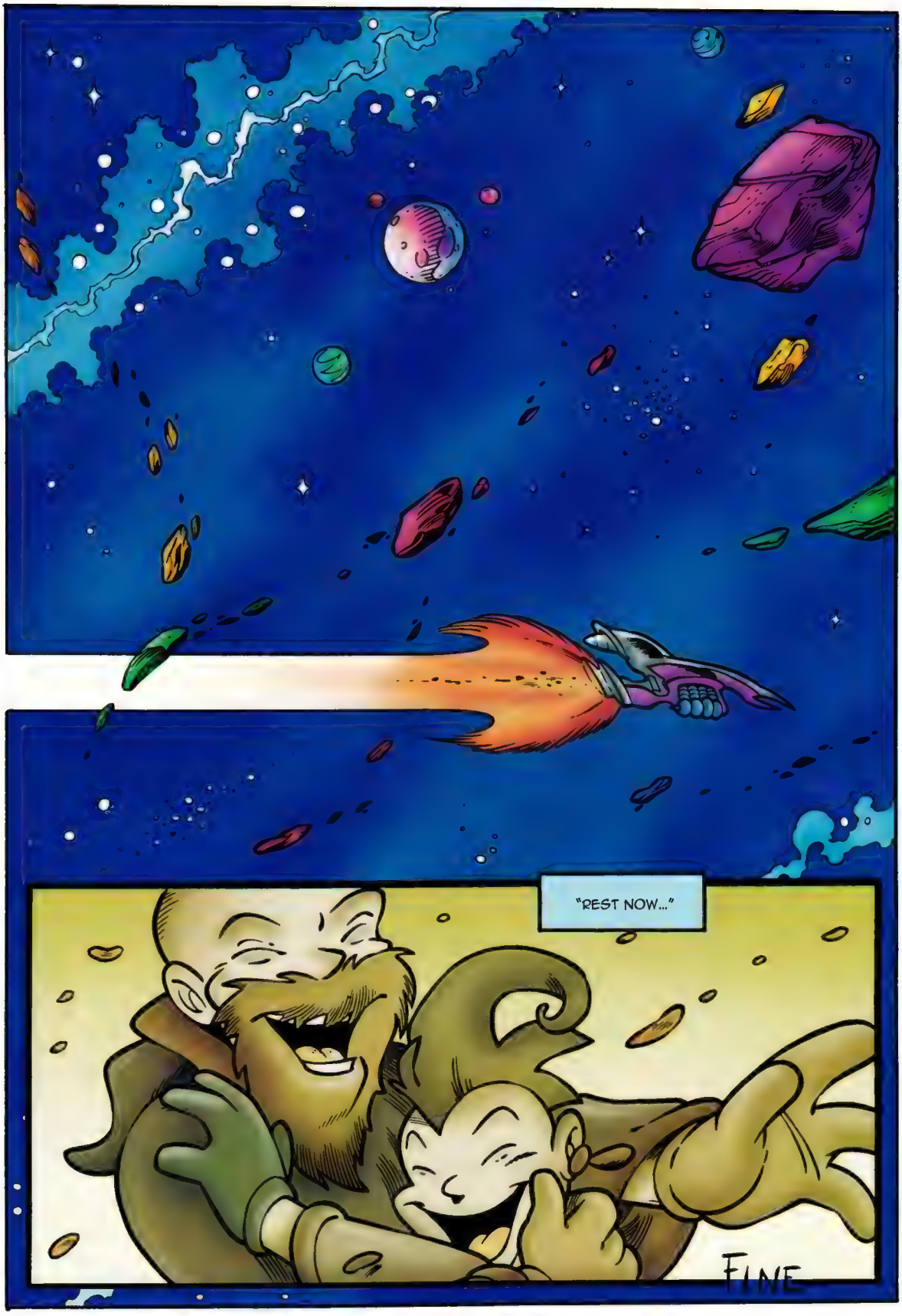

AAAH! WE'RE GOING HOME!
PROVIDED THAT THE EMERGENCY ENGINES AREN'T DAMAGED.
HEY! I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD EMERGENCY ENGINES!
YOU DON'T KNOW A LOT OF THINGS. THE GREEN BUTTON, UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE STATOR, TO THE RIGHT.
HEY! I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD A STATOR! AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS!
YOU SEE?
WHAT DO YOU SAY, SHOULD WE LISTEN TO HIM?
I TRUST YOU.
CLIC
THE THRUST IS GOOD. THERE ARE NO DAMAGES.
AH, N-NO?

GOOD. ONCE HOME, WE'LL THINK OF YOU, BEAUTY EYES. EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT, YOU'LL SEE.

WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF THERE...

YOU'LL SEE AGAIN. THE WIND, THE SKY. WE'LL BE TOGETHER. WE'LL AGAIN BE...

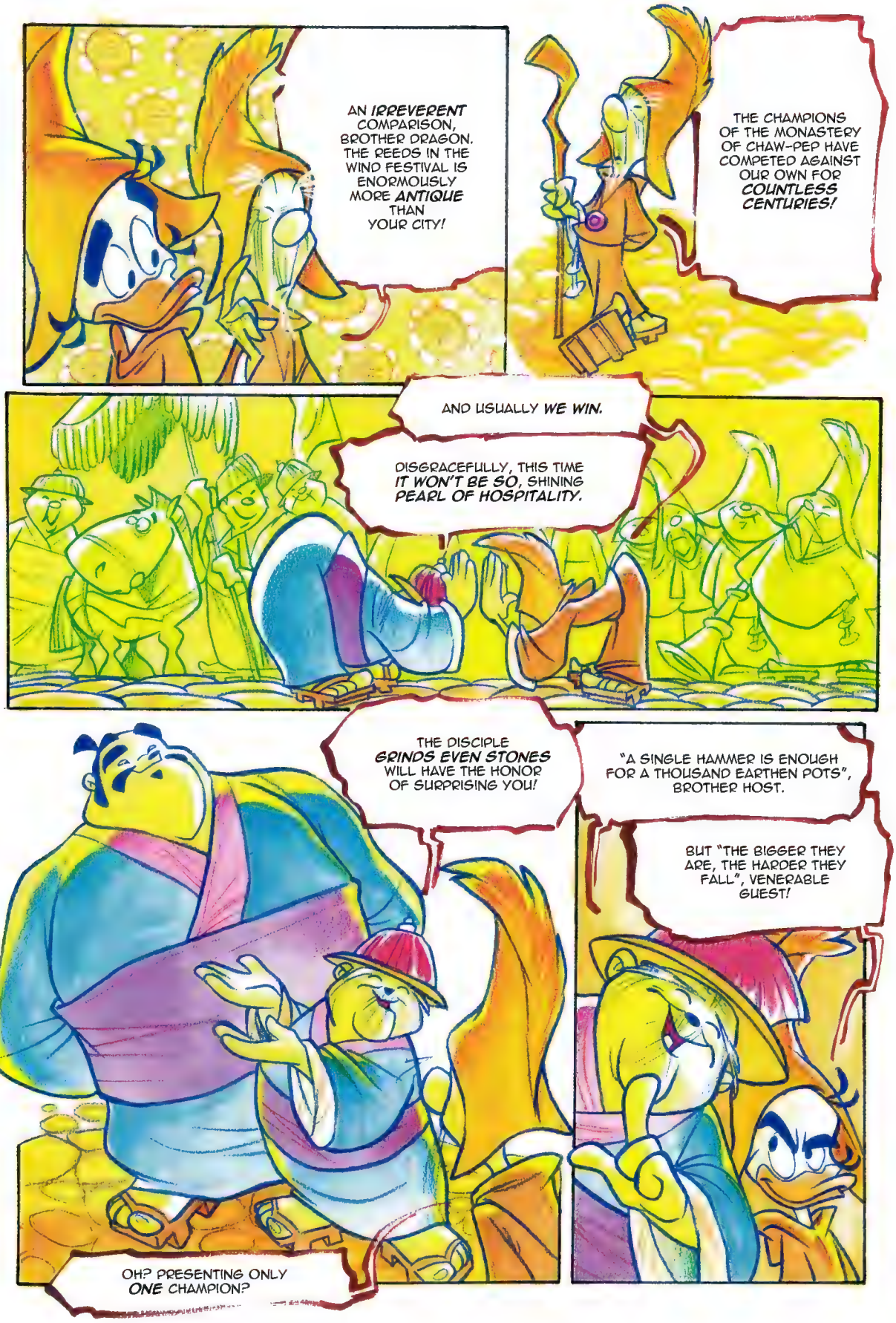
... HAPPY...

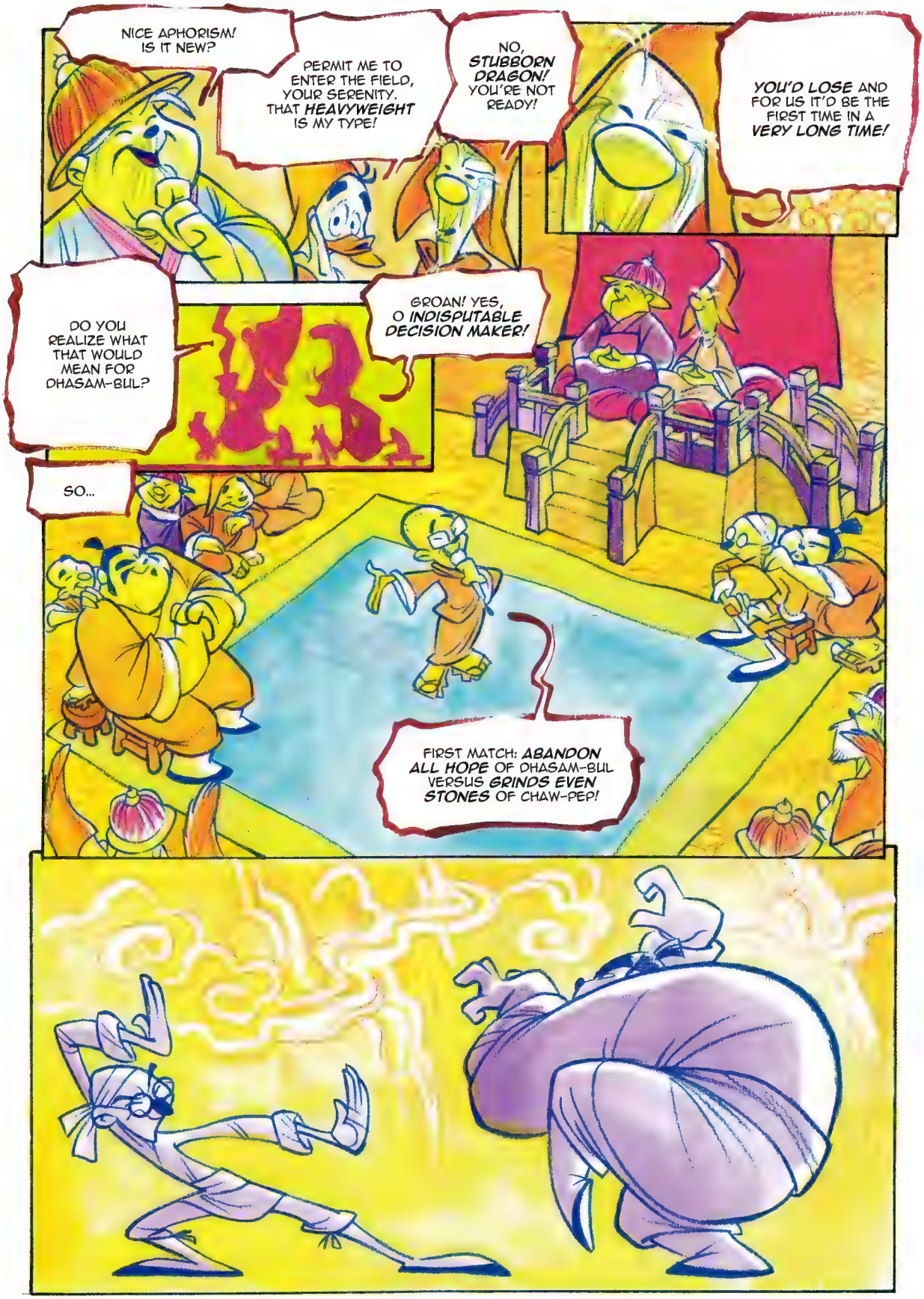

"REST NOW..."
FINE

ZEN AND QUANTUM PHYSICS

I-PKNA-ED-46

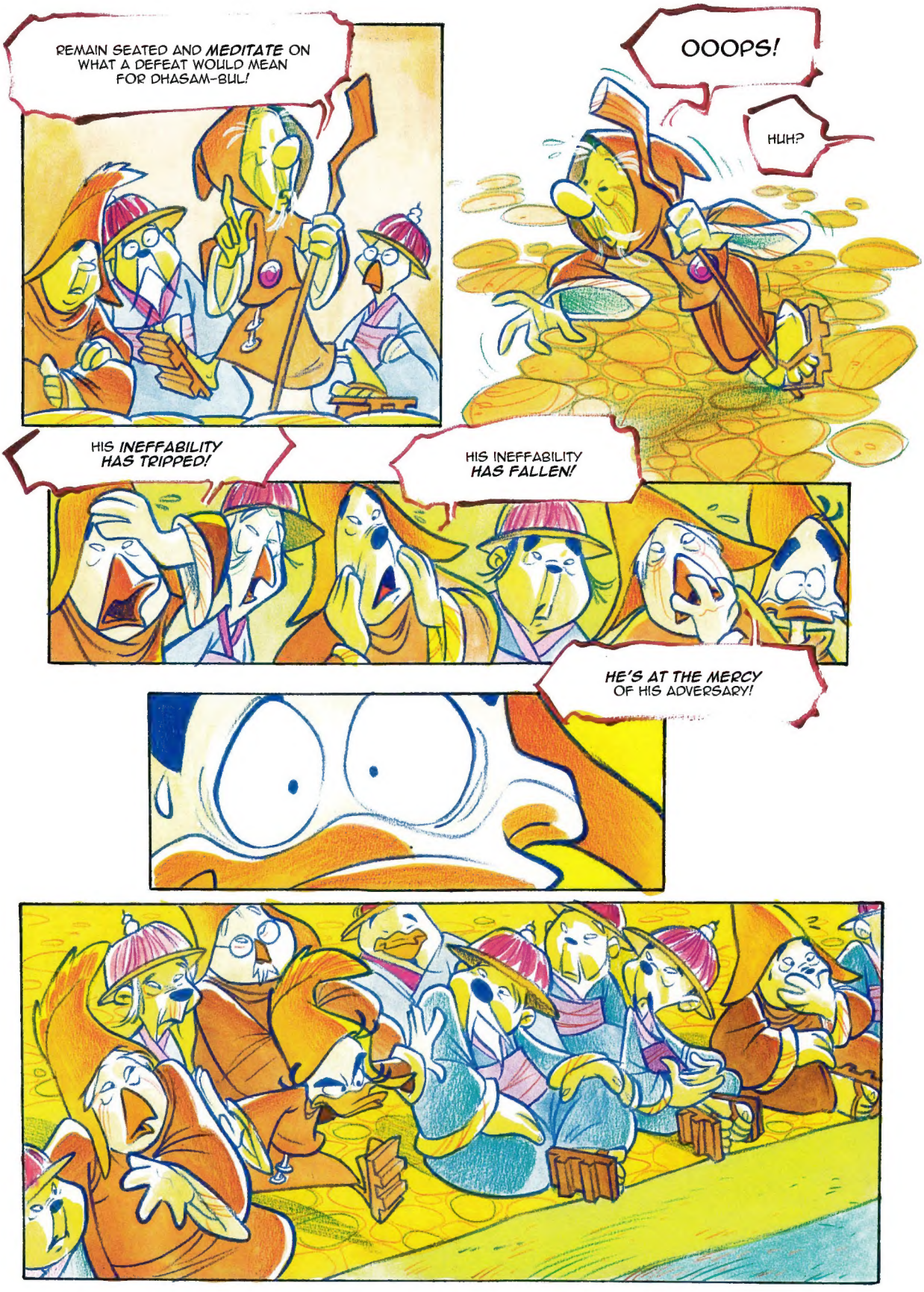
YOUR TECHNIQUE IS ADMIRABLE, BUT YOU LACK THE NECESSARY *DETACHMENT.*
ONLY *PERFECT INDIFFERENCE* ALLOWS YOU TO MASTER THE ART OF *MYSTIC MARITAL ARTS.*
CROUMBL
BUT DON'T DISTRESS. I'M CERTAIN THAT *NEXT YEAR* YOU'LL BE ON THE TEAM REPRESENTING *DHASAM-BUL...*
"... AT THE RITUAL *ORDEAL* OF THE *REEDS IN THE WIND!"*
BWOO
SHA!
SHA!
SHA!
SHA!
HERE ARE THE BRETHREN OF *CHAW-PEP!*
HE HE! REMINDS ME OF CERTAIN OFFICIAL CEREMONIES IN DUCKBURG!


AN *IRREVERENT* COMPARISON, BROTHER DRAGON. THE REEDS IN THE WIND FESTIVAL IS ENORMOUSLY MORE *ANTIQUE* THAN YOUR CITY!
THE CHAMPIONS OF THE MONASTERY OF CHAW-PEP HAVE COMPETED AGAINST OUR OWN FOR *COUNTLESS CENTURIES!*
AND USUALLY *WE WIN.*
DISGRACEFULLY, THIS TIME *IT WON'T BE SO*, SHINING *PEARL OF HOSPITALITY.*
THE DISCIPLE *GRINDS EVEN STONES* WILL HAVE THE HONOR OF SURPRISING YOU!
"A SINGLE HAMMER IS ENOUGH FOR A THOUSAND EARTHEN POTS", BROTHER HOST.
BUT "THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL", VENERABLE GUEST!
OH? PRESENTING ONLY *ONE* CHAMPION?


NICE APHORISM! IS IT NEW?
PERMIT ME TO ENTER THE FIELD, YOUR SERENITY. THAT HEAVYWEIGHT IS MY TYPE!
NO, STUBBORN DRAGON! YOU'RE NOT READY!
YOU'D LOSE AND FOR US IT'D BE THE FIRST TIME IN A VERY LONG TIME!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THAT WOULD MEAN FOR DHASAM-BUL?
GROAN! YES, O INDISPUTABLE DECISION MAKER!
SO...
FIRST MATCH: ABANDON ALL HOPE OF DHASAM-BUL VERSUS GRINDS EVEN STONES OF CHAW-PEP!

SKRAFZZ
OOOO OOO OOH
PRETTY GOOD, EH?
SECOND MATCH...
... NATURAL DISASTER VERSUS GRINDS EVEN STONES!
GRRRRUMP
I'VE TRAINED HIM PERSONALLY, OLD FRIEND!
THIRD MATCH. GOOD LUCK, DOESN'T PAY FOR WHAT HE BREAKS!
THANKS.

WELL, DO WE MOVE ON TO THE GALA DINNER, BROTHER?
CRONCH
I'VE TOLD YOU NO, VERY STUBBORN DRAGON! YOU'D BE BEATEN!
LET ME GO UP AGAINST HIM, YOUR EXTREME ACQUIESCENCE!
IF YOU'RE CONVINCED, O UNCHALLENGEABLE ONE...
YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT IT WOULD MEAN FOR OUR MONASTERY.
BUT...
HOWEVER, SEEING AS THERE'S NO LONGER ANYONE TO REPRESENT US...
LOOK! THE PRIOR HIMSELF IS ENTERING THE ARENA!
WAIT! IF EVEN YOU WOULD...
SIT, IMPERTINENT BROTHER!


REMAIN SEATED AND *MEDITATE* ON WHAT A DEFEAT WOULD MEAN FOR DHASAM-BUL!
OOOPS!
HUH?
HIS *INEFFABILITY HAS TRIPPED!*
HIS INEFFABILITY *HAS FALLEN!*
HE'S AT THE MERCY OF HIS ADVERSARY!

MAY I HELP YOU, O INFINITE AWARENESS?
THANK YOU, WELL-EDUCATED DRAGON.
HAVE YOU MEDITATED ON WHAT A DEFEAT WOULD MEAN FOR US?
YES, YOUR INSUPPORTABLE ASTUTENESS!
AND I BELIEVE I'VE FINALLY UNDERSTOOD!
POK
IT WOULD MEAN ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!
EXACTLY.
END

00046>
9 771125 540009